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Crisis lingers after Levy, PM meet

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

The crisis between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Foreign Minister David Levy lingers on. After a 45-minute meeting between Netanyahu and Levy yesterday, no agreement had been reached and Levy is still deliberating whether to stay in the government or quit.

Sources close to Levy said he is demanding that any settlement reached between himself and Netanyahu be anchored in a cabinet decision "to prevent any more punctures like those that happened with previous promises."

See CRISIS, Page 2

New method found to diagnose tumors

By JUDY SIEGEL

A Weizmann Institute scientist has developed a non-invasive method to distinguish between malignant and benign tumors that may also help establish the prognosis of cancer and monitor therapy's effectiveness.

In the cover story of the July issue of *Nature Medicine*, being published today, Prof. Hadassa Degani and colleagues showed how the method can be used successfully to diagnose breast tumors as an alternative to the invasive technique of taking a biopsy (tissue sample).

This consists of injecting a contrast-enhancing dye-like material into the patient's bloodstream and using magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to follow the way this material is absorbed and evacuated by the tumor.

Because the uptake and clearance differ in cancerous and benign tumors, such monitoring makes a diagnosis possible.

A computer shows an image on a computer screen in various colors, reflecting the distribution of the contrast material. The color patterns for malignant and benign growths, wrote Degani, are strikingly different.

"Our approach has the potential to reduce the number of biopsies performed to diagnose tumors," said Degani, who conducts research in the Rehovot institute's biological regulation department.

"Most breast tumors detected by mammography (X-ray scan of the breast) prove to be benign in a biopsy," Degani said, "so that a non-invasive method like MRI could help reduce the rate of unnecessary procedures."

"We have demonstrated that our approach works, but it now needs to be tested and evaluated in a large-scale trial before it can be widely applied in clinical practice," Degani said.

See TUMORS, Page 2

To our readers

As a result of our expanded weekday newspaper, the *Books* section will no longer appear as a pullout supplement.

Gov't demands PA quell riots



US Consul General Edward Abington (center) tours Hebron yesterday with Palestinian Preventive Security chief Jibril Rajoub (left) and a Palestinian Police officer. (AP)

Palestinian killed in Gaza violence

By MARGOT DUDKEWITCH, ARIEH O'SULLIVAN and LIAT COLLINS

The Defense Ministry issued a harsh warning last night to the Palestinian Authority that, unless the Palestinian Police intervenes to quell the rioting in Hebron, Israel's security forces will have no choice but to react with an iron fist policy.

One defense official said they also warned that the escalation in Hebron could also jeopardize recent efforts to resume peace negotiations. The official said a copy of the message was relayed to the Palestinians through international channels, presumably the Americans.

Foreign Minister David Levy, speaking in the Knesset yesterday, urged the PA to halt the violence.

"What we see these days must change," he said. "This is an opportunity to call on the Palestinian Authority, which is bound by the Hebron agreement, to bring the violence down to zero. It cannot tolerate such things. It contravenes the fresh agreement which we signed. I'm not saying it initiates [the violence], but it is obliged to stop it."

Fierce clashes between IDF troops and border policemen and Palestinian rioters broke out again yesterday in Hebron and in the Gaza Strip, where one Palestinian was killed. In Hebron, over 100 firebombs were hurled at troops and police. One border policeman was lightly injured when a firebomb burned his hand and Palestinians claimed 38 were injured.

The riots broke out in the casbah alleyways and Shallala Road not

far from Beit Hadassah. Additional troops were sent to Hebron on Tuesday night and yesterday morning IDF snipers were seen perched on rooftops firing at Palestinians who hurled firebombs, stones, and bottles of acid.

While there were no Palestinian Police units present to quell the rioters, Preventive Security chief Jibril Rajoub walked by some of the rioters, who recognized him and started calling for a renewal of the intifada. Rajoub told reporters that if the stalemate in the peace talks continued, the situation in Hebron would blow up.

Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak met with Preventive Security chief Mohammed Dahlan last night in Gaza, while earlier yesterday OC Judea and Samaria Maj.-Gen. Gabi Ophir met with PA counterpart Haj Ismail.

Meanwhile, the two IDF soldiers wounded by a pipe bomb thrown at them in Hebron on Tuesday were still in the hospital yesterday. Lior Cohen, who suffered serious injuries, is in intensive care after undergoing 13 hours of surgery. Doctors at the hospital said his condition is serious but stable. Rafi Raphael, who was lightly injured by shrapnel, said all he could remember was standing with Cohen in an alleyway aiming at Palestinian rioters when suddenly there was a blast, the force of which threw him to the other side of the road.

Yesterday morning, IDF troops sealed off the alleyway where Cohen and Raphael were wounded with large drums filled with cement.

See GAZA, Page 2

Egypt, US work to restart talks

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Egypt is working behind the scenes with strong American support to reactivate Israeli-Palestinian security cooperation as a means to bring the two sides back to the negotiating table, a highly placed source said yesterday.

The commitments being made on both sides by their senior military personnel are relayed to American peace envoy Dennis Ross, who evidently is orchestrating this delicate diplomatic process from afar while his Egyptian counterpart, Osama el-Baz, works locally.

CIA personnel based in Israel evidently have been overseeing implementation of the reinstatement of the joint security arrangements and have been participating in the military-level talks.

Officials in the Prime Minister's Office were unable to specify the date of el-Baz's impending arrival in Israel. However, they contended that he can make headway without being present here.

On the other hand, they stressed that the arrangements for reactivating the joint patrols and resuming the exchange of vital intelligence are being made by senior

military personnel in keeping with guidelines worked out by el-Baz and approved by Ross.

This headway has been endangered by the spiral of violence in Hebron, the sources said, which "is being encouraged by Palestinian Authority Chairman

Yasser Arafat." The Palestinian leader was accused of "playing a double game" — engaging in diplomatic dialogue while fomenting unrest on the ground. One element of this strategy is Arafat's reliance on worldwide TV coverage of the confrontation between Palestinian youths and heavily armed IDF soldiers.

US hopes security ties improving, Page 2

"Arafat cannot have it both ways," a senior government aide said, implying that the government's patience is wearing thin and that the troops cannot be expected to exercise restraint on an open-ended basis.

Palestinian analysts contended that Arafat has been trying to pla-

cate the militant wing of his Fatah organization, whose influential members disapproved of his having sent his deputy, Mahmoud Abbas, to meet with National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon on June 16.

They told of a bitter debate on this issue between Arafat and his detractors during a recent PA conclave in Gaza, at which they depicted Sharon as one of the Palestine Liberation Organization's arch-enemies and accused him of personal responsibility for the 1982 massacre of Palestinians in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps near Beirut.

The escalation in street fighting along the line separating Hebron's Jewish quarter from the part of the city controlled by the PA was described as Arafat's method of neutralizing his critics.

Jon Immanuel added:

While Egyptian and Israeli sources appeared anxious to show some optimism — concerning progress, an aide to Arafat said yesterday that the peace talks are close to collapse and the tension in the territories close to explosion.

"Mr. Netanyahu has dealt with the Egyptian moves as a public relations game and not with the appropriate seriousness," PA cabi-

Air force chief: We're losing qualitative edge

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

OC Air Force Maj.-Gen. Eitan Ben-Eliahu warned yesterday that Israel is losing its qualitative edge as advanced weapons find their way to Arab armies in the Middle East, and said more resources are needed to widen the gap.

Ben-Eliahu also said that the IAF is capable of quickly dealing with a sudden change in events in the region and warned that "it would be unwise to test us."

"This is the essence of the air force's alertness. The air force is a quick animal and is deployed, ready and poised to act according to a short timetable, so whenever there is a turning point we are ready to give a quick answer," Ben-Eliahu said.

Ben-Eliahu said he had no information on any new acquisitions in the cash-strapped Syrian Air Force, but said other nations in the region were making serious upgrades, including night vision avionics, state-of-the-art technologies, smart weapons, laser-guided missiles and advanced air-to-air

missiles.

Ben-Eliahu steadfastly refused to name the states he was referring to, and when asked about Egypt's Western armament program said that Israel treated Egypt as a peaceful neighbor. It is also widely known that Saudi Arabia has also greatly enhanced its air forces with advanced US equipment.

Speaking in his Tel Aviv headquarters, flanked by a map stretching from the Atlantic to Pakistan, Ben-Eliahu said that the air force had to be prepared for unexpected changes of events in the region.

"There has been no change in the security doctrine of Israel," Ben-Eliahu said, adding that the IAF had to be able to give an immediate answer to any threat. "I see this as the primary task of the IAF, to be prepared for this. This is part of our deterrence," he said.

Ben-Eliahu was speaking on the occasion of Air Force Day which is being marked today and highlighted by a pilot cadets graduation ceremony.

"There was, is and, if we act wisely, will continue to be the relative superiority of the IAF over other air forces. But I have to say there are developments. The region is absorbing new weapons, new Western aircraft, and advanced aircraft. The region is integrating its training with Western nations so that the character of its flying and the quality of its training is improving," Ben-Eliahu said.



Eitan Ben-Eliahu (IDF Spokesman)

lion each, the US-made fighter jet is to significantly increase the IAF's long-range capability. The IAF is also to acquire 15 Black Hawk helicopters in March, Ben-Eliahu said.

He said that the great influx of surface-to-surface missiles into the Middle East was a threat to Israel, but that the appropriate defense is being erected against them. This includes the Arrow missile and Wall radar which is to begin integration into the IAF next year, as well as the offensive capabilities of the IAF to hit the launchers.

"It won't be worth their while to use [surface-to-surface missiles] and if God forbid they do so, then we'll know how to give the appropriate answer," Ben-Eliahu said.

The Air Force commander added that the recommendations made by the Ivory inquiry into the February transport helicopter collision are being implemented, and that the IDF would continue to ferry troops into Lebanon on helicopters.

Labor MKs: Evacuate Hebron's Jews

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN and Rim

Labor MKs Uzi Baram and Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, both confidantes of Labor Chairman Ehud Barak, yesterday urged the government to consider evacuating the Jewish settlers from Hebron, warning that the situation in the territories is on the verge of explosion, while the prime minister is not functioning and the government is crippled.

Ben-Eliezer accused the government of not dealing with the crisis and "allowing events on the ground to get out of control."

"I would have evacuated the settlers several years ago, and I say this because I am concerned about their well-being, because I care about Jewish blood," he added.

Baram noted that the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin had erred when he failed to evacuate Hebron's Jews after the Machpela Cave massacre.

"The riots in Hebron and Gush Katif are practically bordering on war, and what is the prime minister doing? What's the government doing? What's Foreign Minister David Levy doing? They're busy regulating the relations between them. Everyone is debating whether there'll be a kitchen or not," Baram said.

"The state of security is dete-

riorating, the situation is almost an emergency one, and there are security threats, but you don't see the cabinet discussing it or anyone preparing for it," he added, noting that the intifada had also caught the former Likud government by surprise, when it suddenly inflamed the territories.

Baram said it is obvious that neither Netanyahu nor his government can find a solution to the present difficult situation. He said adding National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon to the senior decision-making team will not be conducive to the peace process, since Sharon's views conform with those of the religious bloc and Gush Emunim.

Labor issued a statement yesterday accusing Netanyahu of behaving irresponsibly when instead of fulfilling his job as prime minister by ensuring security in Hebron and the territories and thawing the frozen peace process, he is spending all his time trying to assure the foreign minister that Levy is responsible for foreign affairs.

Metz leader MK Yossi Sarid also blasted the government, saying: "There's a war on in Hebron, and these guys are preoccupied stroking each other, and dealing with kitchens and kitchenettes."

James Stewart dies

LOS ANGELES (AP) — James Stewart, the lanky, slow-talking actor who embodied the American values of decency and moral courage in movies such as *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington* and *It's a Wonderful Life*, died yesterday, aged 89 at his Beverly Hills home.

A former amateur magician, Stewart conjured up some of the most memorable performances in cinema history, appearing in more than 75 films. Stewart won a best actor Academy Award for *The Philadelphia Story* and was nominated for the Oscar four other times.

NEWS
in brief

Police, homeless clash in Mevasseret Zion

Two policemen were hurt and eight people arrested last night when police clashed with homeless people from Mevasseret Zion. Dozens of homeless last night broke into a vacant apartment at the Mevasseret Zion absorption center, where other homeless are squatting in apartments intended for immigrants. The homeless came to the site with clubs in their hands and clashed with police and security people who sprayed them with tear gas, injuring a child.

Five die in road accidents

Four people were killed yesterday when the car in which they were riding made an illegal U-turn and collided with an oncoming Egged bus on the Acre-Karmiel road, police said. They were identified as two couples from the Druse village of Ushiya - Ibrahim Sagim, 75, and his wife Salima, 65, and Ja'ar Jabar, 71, and his wife, Juhara.

PM orders crackdown on illegal Arab building

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday instructed the police and General Security Service to enforce housing and construction law in eastern Jerusalem in light of increasing alleged violations by Arab residents. There have been reports of some 3,000 unauthorized building projects in the capital's predominantly Arab neighborhoods during the past 18 months, which a GSS official said could create an irrevocable situation of Palestinians exercising excessive control over a large part of the city.

Woman to be indicted for inflammatory flyer

Police to indict woman for Judea and Samaria police said they would file an indictment today against Jerusalem resident Tatiana Susskind, 25, who is suspected of distributing flyers last weekend depicting Mohammed as a pig stamping on the Koran.

Palestinian land dealer reported kidnapped

A Palestinian land dealer was kidnapped from his home last Wednesday and is currently being held by Palestinian security forces in Kalkiya, lawyer Michael Teplow yesterday. In an interview with The Jerusalem Post, Teplow said relatives of Ayash Amer, the former mukhtar of Kfar Mescha near Ariel, had informed him of the kidnapping on Tuesday night.

Fox bites reservists on Golan

A fox attacked and bit seven reservists serving in the southern Golan Heights yesterday. The victims were immediately taken to a clinic in Tiberias for rabies vaccinations. Other soldiers who came in contact with the fox also received rabies vaccinations, the IDF Spokesman said.

US hopes security ties improving

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON - The US is hopeful that Israeli-Palestinian security cooperation has resumed in earnest, but realizes the test is in the field, a senior administration official said yesterday.

step in that process." Asked whether the periodic talks over the past week represents a move away from the extended stalemate, the official said, "We hope so."

He said the region's leaders should emulate the risks for peace taken by Jordan, Egypt, Israel, and the PLO, and rejected the Saudis' argument that it would not participate due to the deadlocked peace process.

Forty-nine years of this is too much. Some countries have to stand up and be leaders and have to be willing to take some risks for peace ... We need leadership from other Arab leaders."

Shas, UTJ block social rights bills

By LIAT COLLINS

A parliamentary trick by Shas and United Torah Judaism postponed at the last minute yesterday's vote on the preliminary reading of two bills entitled, The Basic Law: Social Rights.

He suggested turning the bills into regular motions which the coalition could also support, but Peretz and Ma'or objected, convinced they had sufficient support for the legislation.

One bill was by Histadrut head and Labor MK Amir Peretz, who signed 57 MKs on the proposed legislation, and the other by Anat Maor (Meretz).

Peretz later condemned the parliamentary maneuver removing the bills from the agenda, saying: "I am disappointed that an entire coalition, led personally by the prime minister, mobilized to torpedo our initiative to defend and anchor in law the rights of citizens and workers."

The bills would anchor in law the right to organize and strike in the workplace as well as ensure the provision of basic services such as health, education, and welfare.

Peretz later condemned the parliamentary maneuver removing the bills from the agenda, saying: "I am disappointed that an entire coalition, led personally by the prime minister, mobilized to torpedo our initiative to defend and anchor in law the rights of citizens and workers."

The religious parties have automatically opposed the principle of Basic Laws, no matter what they pertain to, since the Basic Law: Freedom of Occupation paved the way for the sale of pork.

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid said in response: "This trick exposes the true face of Shas on social issues."

He said the maneuver would "definitely influence the Histadrut election procedures in less than a year."

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi stated his ministry's objection to the

He said the maneuver would "definitely influence the Histadrut election procedures in less than a year."



If you can't stand the heat

Protesters from the Labor Party's young guard play on the theme of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's 'kitchen cabinet' (inner security cabinet) opposite the Knesset yesterday. The placard reads: "In Hebron explosive charges are blowing up, and Bibi [Netanyahu] is busy with kitchens."

Husband gets 6 years for plotting to kill wife

By RAINE MARCUS

Haim Afalo, a businessman accused of plotting to kill his estranged wife because she wanted too much money as part of their divorce agreement, was sentenced to six years' imprisonment yesterday by Tel Aviv District Court.

Afalo said in his defense that he had no intention of commissioning his wife's murder, but just wished to hurt her. He was, he added, suborned by the undercover agent.

Afalo, 63, of Herzliya Pimach, was accused of hiring a hit-man to murder his wife. But the would-be assassin was in fact a police informer, who had uncovered two previous commissions to kill people.

Judges Amnon Strashnov, Shelly Timen, and Ze'ev Hammer declined to accept his argument, noting that if Afalo's wife had only been hurt, he would still have to divide his assets with her.

The informer, a known criminal whose name has been banned from publication, agreed to carry out the Afalo murder for \$30,000, and received a

down-payment of \$10,000.

Palestinian businessmen challenge PA to attract investments

By STEVE RODAN

Palestinian business leaders yesterday challenged the Palestinian Authority to streamline bureaucracy and institute a system of law in an effort to attract investment in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

PA chief Yasser Arafat was scheduled to attend the seminar but was in Europe on an official visit.

"We call on the Palestinian Authority to give the private sector the freedom it requires," said Mu'ath Nabulsi, chairman of the Nablus Chamber of Commerce.

Both officials and independent analysts agreed that the Palestinian economy was deteriorating.

"There is a major foul-up of the Palestinian Authority and this is the absence of a legal system," said Samir Huleileh, former director of PECARD and now a business consultant.

They brought statistics that demonstrated a sharp drop in per capita income since 1992 - from \$2,700 in 1992 to \$1,700 in 1996.

"There is no legal regulatory framework,"

But the most disturbing statistic to the analysts was the decline in investment in Palestinian areas. In 1992, investment was \$1.2 billion. In 1996, the figure dropped to \$250 million.

The discussion took place during the first day of a two-day conference on Palestinian investment sponsored by the Center for Palestine Research

Hisham Awartani, a professor at An Najah University and a founder of CPRS, said investors have a safe and stable environment in PA-controlled areas.

In addition, they also face an overstaffed government bureaucracy, government interference and a lack of ministerial coordi-

nation.

"The economic deterioration is a painful reality," Awartani said. "The indicators are dangerous."

PA officials acknowledged many of the ills cited by the business leaders, who made several references to strong-armed tactics used by the security forces.

But they said Arafat is committed to an open economy and is trying to limit state monopolies.

Khaled Islam, Arafat's economic adviser, said part of the problem is that PA ministers believe Arafat must make every decision.

CRISIS

Continued from Page 1

The sources said that at this stage Levy will not be satisfied with oral or even written promises from Netanyahu, and needs the cabinet's approval as a guarantee that this time the agreement with him will be kept.

Levy is demanding the abolition of the inner security cabinet, and being the senior ministerial authority vis-a-vis the negotiations with the Palestinians, peace process and foreign affairs, as conditions for his staying in the cabinet.

Coalition sources explained that Netanyahu now knows Levy's threat to quit was an empty one, after Levy's press conference on Tuesday.

Levy said after the meeting, "We made our positions clear. The issues are serious. It was a serious and responsible talk. I will have to take a stand. Soon. When I make my decision, I will announce it."

Netanyahu is planning to complete the cabinet reshuffle by Monday and present his new cabinet ministers to the Knesset.

He met last night with Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav, who is slated to replace National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, last night to discuss the cabinet reshuffle.

Katsav is also considered a candidate for finance minister if Sharon is not appointed to this post.

Sharon could not estimate yesterday whether he would be appointed finance minister, as planned, or not. Sharon is conditioning his accepting the post on joining the inner cabinet, which Levy is demanding to have abolished.

"It makes no difference to me what they call the forum. What's important is that I am a full partner in the decisions on security and foreign affairs, and in carrying them out, and that regular consultations are held on these issues," Sharon said.

Neither Netanyahu nor Levy mentioned the inner cabinet in their public statements yesterday, perhaps to prevent other ministers from coming up with demands. Already Education Minister Zevulun Hammer of the National Religious Party, Agriculture and Environment Minister Rafael Eitan of Yisrael BaAliyah, and a Shas minister want to join the inner cabinet as well, and be partners in the decision-making.

What they call the forum. What's important is that I am a full partner in the decisions on security and foreign affairs, and in carrying them out, and that regular consultations are held on these issues," Sharon said.

GAZA

Continued from Page 1

Troops also clashed with Palestinian rioters in three areas of Gush Katif yesterday, resulting in the death of a Palestinian youth; according to Palestinian sources six were injured.

In the afternoon, a group of some 30 Palestinians began stoning soldiers guarding workers ploughing a field on the Abraham Farm. Additional troops were sent in and

fired warning shots in the air to disperse them, wounding one, the IDF Spokesman said.

Mahar Etzer, 17, from Dir el-Ballah was shot in the chest and died of his wounds. Last night he was buried in Nussirat with over 1,000 people attending his funeral, where he was declared a martyr.

Earlier, "Gush Katif settlers declared that the Khan Yunis Municipality had taken over a section of the beachfront south of Kfar Yam, erecting signs declaring the area a public beach and placing rubbish bins and umbrellas there. The

settlers demanded the IDF remove the signposts and prevent the municipality from taking over the area.

The IDF Spokesman said the Palestinians were in violation of the agreement, as the area is under complete Israeli control. The spokesman added that troops halted the work.

In the morning troops uprooted olive tree saplings that had been planted in an area under Israeli control outside the hothouses of Morag. The IDF Spokesman said troops also prevented the Palestinians from erecting a booth at the site where two days earlier the Palestinians had dis-

emanating from the nuclei of hydrogen atoms that make up water in the tissues are too weak to produce a resolution comparable to that under a microscope. But in Degani's method, resolution is very high because the water-tissue signals are recorded over an extended period - two to four minutes instead of the usual several seconds. The breast is imaged three times in what is called a 3TP method: before the contrast material is injected and twice afterwards, at intervals of several minutes.

TUMORS

Continued from Page 1

The new method could also tell doctors the prognosis of cancer because it reveals tiny blood vessels that feed the cancer (in a process called angiogenesis) and allow the tumor to grow and spread. Knowing their density and ability to deliver materials to the tumor may make it possible to determine the tumor's potential

aggressiveness, said Degani, whose team consisted of Weizmann Institute doctoral students as well as radiologists from the Hadassah-University Hospital in Rehovot.

Monitoring the blood vessels and the spaces between cells may also help evaluate the efficacy of treatment, she said. A reduction in the vessels' density and an increase in intra-cellular spaces could point to successful therapy.

In conventional MRI, signals

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مكتبة النجاشي

IN CONTEXT / DAVID RUDGE

Mordechai's blind alley

For more than 20 years, the terrorist threat from Lebanon has been a bloody thorn in Israel's side.

The lengthy and costly Lebanon war that began in 1982 and ended three years later, as well as three major operations — from Litani in 1978 to Accountability in 1993 and last April's Grapes of Wrath — have only partially solved the problem.

The latest proposal by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai aimed at pulling the IDF out of the security zone, while ensuring peace along the northern border and guaranteeing the rights of south Lebanese who have cooperated with Israel, also appears doomed to failure before it even gets off the ground.

The idea envisages a multinational force, headed by France, which in cooperation with the Lebanese Army and the South Lebanese Army would deploy in south Lebanon and ultimately take over the areas vacated by the SLA.

The concept has won the approval of "Mothers for Peace," campaigning for an IDF withdrawal from Lebanon, either under a security arrangement or in the framework of an agreement with Syria and Lebanon.

"We are very happy to hear that there is an alternative to the present situation in south Lebanon," said Masha Sheindorf of Haifa,

whose son has already completed two tours of duty in Lebanon.

"We are also pleased about the apparent change in the attitude of the defense minister towards the Lebanon problem and we support any move that will lead to a situation whereby the IDF will be able to pull out of Lebanon, while ensuring peace and quiet in the region," she added.

Past experience, however, has shown that reaching a diplomatic solution with Lebanon is as difficult as trying to find a military one. This was the case in the 1982 "peace talks" which ended in a watered down security accord in May 1983. Even that agreement was never implemented, primarily because of Syrian opposition.

It is also worth remembering what happened to French and American forces in Lebanon in the past. They were originally called in to oversee the withdrawal of the PLO from Beirut in 1982 and returned afterwards, at the request of the Lebanese government, following the Sabra and Shatilla massacre. They left for good in 1983 shortly after two suicide bomb attacks on the same day — one against a French army barracks in which around 80 soldiers were killed and the other at a US Marines headquarters where over 240 soldiers died.

Mordechai's proposal for another French

involvement in Lebanon was originally reported to have aroused considerable interest in France. Since then, however, the French have been playing down the idea.

The parents are among the few who have welcomed the proposal. The idea has been rejected by most Israeli politicians as impractical and unrealistic. In Lebanon and Syria, it has been greeted with scorn and outright opposition.

Syrian government newspapers yesterday described it as a "dubious exercise" designed to serve Israel's security interests, prevent Hizbullah "resistance" attacks and make it easier for Israel to interfere in Lebanon's affairs and undermine its sovereignty.

"The only possible way this proposal might be accepted by the Lebanese and receive the grudging approval of the Syrians would be if the IDF were to withdraw first, followed by the proposed deployment of the French-led multinational force and the Lebanese Army," said a veteran Lebanese observer.

"The fact, however, that the proposal apparently calls for a trial period before an IDF withdrawal as well as the inclusion of the SLA in the multinational force, which are both unacceptable to Lebanon, makes the idea itself pretty much a non-starter," the observer added.

Missing man found — then arrested

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

The mysterious disappearance of 31-year-old Shalom Pitusi was solved when he suddenly showed up at the Ayalot police station near Beersheba yesterday morning.

Judea and Samaria Police Spokesman Opher Sivan said last night that Pitusi would remain in custody for 24 hours, adding he is suspected of selling stolen goods, and that Palestinians were also involved.

Pitusi, who had visited Bethlehem with his brother on Monday carrying NIS 250,000 to

purchase electrical equipment, was reported missing by his brother on Tuesday night.

According to Sivan, Pitusi's brother discovered he was missing on Monday night and spent the next 24 hours searching for him. When he failed to find him, he notified the police on Tuesday night.

The police immediately notified their Palestinian counterparts. Sivan added that the search continued throughout the night. At 8 yesterday morning at the police station Pitusi claimed he had been kidnapped by two Palestinian policemen who stole

his money and the electrical goods he purchased.

He claimed that during the night he was held in a building and was released yesterday morning. He allegedly reached Dahariya, south of Hebron, where he called his brother and asked him to pick him up. Pitusi claimed when he arrived at the police station that he had come to inform the police about the incident.

He was questioned at the police station for three hours before being transferred to a police station in the Judea and Samaria district.

Soldiers escape Hizbullah rocket attack

By DAVID RUDGE

Hizbullah gunmen struck at an IDF convoy in the security zone yesterday, setting a troop-carrying truck afire, but causing no casualties. The troops aboard managed to jump clear, although the vehicle itself was badly damaged.

The convoy was en route from the Dlat (Tel Dabshe) position to the Beaufort Castle, when it came under anti-tank rocket fire.

Simultaneously, Hizbullah mortar crews opened fire at a nearby position of the South Lebanese Army, again without causing any injuries or damage. The attacks sparked heavy exchanges, which lasted for several hours.

The incidents yesterday followed a wave of successful IDF initiated operations inside the north of the security zone in the past week, in which at least five Hizbullah gunmen were killed. There were no IDF casualties in any of those incidents.

Meanwhile, dozens of children from Moshav She'ar Yashuv are to be hosted by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai at an IAF base in the South today. Mordechai promised the children the excursion after the helicopter disaster in February, to try and help them overcome the trauma of the tragedy that literally fell on their community out of the sky.

The youngsters will fly to the base in a transport plane and see a parade and a demonstration of IAF warplanes.

Pitusi's mysterious shopping trip to Bethlehem

By JON IMMANUEL

The strange adventure of Shalom Pitusi baffled Bethlehem electrical supplies stores yesterday because they could not understand what profit he would make buying TV sets from them.

"Basically we get our goods from Israeli suppliers. The prices are the same and we have almost the same VAT," said the salesman in Alassasi Home Electronics.

When pressed, however, he said that the difference is that so few Israelis, or Palestinians for that matter, buy anything nowadays in Bethlehem that it is sometimes possible to bargain the price down a little. At least the VAT is negotiable, which is not collected in the same punctilious manner by Palestinian Authority tax men as it is from Arab Jerusalem merchants by Israeli tax collectors. Soldiers at the Gilo checkpoint who could check for contraband goods do not do so. The Oslo accords compelled the PA to establish similar VAT levels to discourage smuggling.

But anybody who bought in Bethlehem would be making a big mistake, said Vardi Cohen, who sells similar equipment in Talpiot, three kilometers away on the other side of the checkpoint. "Could you rely on their warranty?" he asked.

That's a risk that Pitusi evidently thought worth taking, along with the NIS 250,000 he said he carried with

him, when he was apparently robbed by two policemen. Roughly translated that could buy 50 stereo systems, 40 TVs, a dozen food processors and three refrigerators.

When you buy in that kind of bulk the you don't buy retail, as a Bethlehem hotel owner says. "I buy all my electrical equipment, bed sheets, cookers and plugs in Tel Aviv. First of all it's either made in Israel or comes through Israel. Second, I cut out the Palestinian middle man who brings it to Bethlehem. If I was buying a single small radio I might buy it here," he said.

The equipment in the shops includes top Japanese stereos and TVs, German coffeemakers, French food processors and American refrigerators, but moving them has been a problem in recent months, the Bethlehem salesman admits.

The economy is in a tailspin and unemployment is soaring to Gaza levels. The hotel owner reported that "10 to 15 people came into my hotel today asking if I had any jobs. This has been going on for two or three months. Six months ago only two to four a day came looking for jobs."

Times have changed. "Long before the intifada we saw Israelis here buying electrical goods" and other things, and until just before the intifada they would come, eat and drink," he said. But only an adventurer like Pitusi comes looking for a steal whose price turned out to be far higher than he bargained for.



A small Jewish world

US philanthropist Aaron Zigelman shows his grandson Itai pictures from Luboml in Poland in a new exhibition called 'A small Jewish world' at Yad Vashem yesterday. Zigelman, who was born in Luboml, organized the exhibition of the Jewish community there, most of which was destroyed during the Holocaust.

(Isaac Harari)

AT THE KNESSET / LIAT COLLINS

Labor, Meretz file further no-confidence motions

Meretz and Labor have filed motions of no-confidence in the prime minister on the grounds he is too busy with the coalition crisis to deal with the disturbances in the territories. "Because of a childish argument over the size of [Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu's kitchen, we'll all end up going down into shelters," said Labor whip Ra'anan Cohen.

Religious freedom
MK Naomi Chazan (Meretz) is calling for an urgent meeting of the Knesset Committee on the Status of Women to discuss the dismissal of a senior Religious Affairs Ministry official for authorizing the appointment of three women to the Efrat Religious Council. The official, Yehiel Lagni, cooperated with Efrat Mayor Shlomo Riskin to get the women appointed.

Chazan said the dismissal crudely ignores the High Court ruling on the Leah Shkadiel case, which determined that women can join religious councils.

"In the Efrat case it is a double sin, because the appointment of the women was made with the agreement of the town's rabbi and religious council members," she said.

Rabin memorial day
A bill calling for a national memorial day to commemorate Yitzhak Rabin, which passed its first reading last month, was yesterday endorsed by the Knesset Education Committee for second and third (final) readings. Committee chairman Emanuel Zisserman (Third Way) said he would try to bring the law for passage before the summer recess at the beginning of August.

The bill, submitted by the Meretz faction, would mark the Hebrew date of Rabin's assassination, Heshvan 12, in several ways, including the lowering of flags on public buildings to half-mast, special activities in schools relating to Rabin's life and stressing the importance of democracy, special mention in the IDF order of the day, and a memorial service at Rabin's grave on Mount

Herzl.

Freedom of information
The freedom of information bill passed its first reading in the Knesset late Tuesday. Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, who presented the bill, called it "a revolution in the relations between the state authorities and the individual." Under the law, if passed, a citizen would have the right to access information on the activities and regulations of public authorities, except when this would be a security risk, a threat to privacy, or might interfere with law enforcement.

The bill specifically relates to environmental cases, such as the emission of pollutants and environmental hazards, broadening regulations which require the information be available to the public.

Investigating incitement
The Knesset Law Committee will ask the attorney-general to establish definite criteria for opening investigations into allegations of incitement, said committee chairman Shaul Yahalom (National Religious Party).

Yahalom criticized the lack of standard criteria determining when to open such inquiries and said no intensive investigation had yet been made into the anti-haredi material distributed at a demonstration last Saturday, graffiti in Netanyahu's reading "Death to Netanyahu," and flyers with the slogan "Did you both kill and inherit?" distributed at another demonstration Saturday calling for early elections.

Broadcast discrimination
Labor's spokesman in the Knesset, Yitzhak Rabin, has complained to the head of Israel Radio, Amnon Nadav, the head of Channel 1's news department, Rafik Halabi, and the director of the Second Television and Radio Authority, Nahman Shai, saying the opposition is discriminated against in their broadcasts. He presented figures from last week showing the percentage opposition MKs interviewed was 19% compared to 81% from the coalition.

Labor MKs this week complained in their faction meeting that the balance is being upset in the coalition's favor.

Demolition orders
The Knesset Interior Committee, chaired by Salah Tarif (Labor), yesterday approved a bill for first reading by Itzhak A-Sanaa (Democratic Arab Party) under which demolition orders would not be issued against

homes in Beduin settlements of at least 20 buildings, which have been at the same site for at least five years, unless the court is sure people living in the home have an alternative.

Opposition rights
The Knesset yesterday passed the preliminary reading of a bill by MK Nissim Zivli that would grant certain rights to the leader of the oppo-

sition. Under the bill, the prime minister would be obliged to regularly meet with and update the leader of the opposition once a month and the opposition leader would have the right to make a statement in the Knesset plenum whenever he wants.

Even if the bill passes all further readings, it will not come into effect until the next Knesset.

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MINISTRY OF HEALTH Department of Assets and Services, Jerusalem

1. The Ministry of Health hereby invites bids for the following tender:
Tender No. 166/97 - Computerized Information System for Public Health Food Services

2. Period of Contract:
The entire development period + twelve months warranty with the option to extend for a further seven years.
3. a) The tender documents and further information may be obtained from Information or the secretariat of the Department of Assets and Services, 29 Rehov Rivka, 2nd floor, The Ministry of Health, Jerusalem, Tel. 02-568-1221, 568-1384 during regular working hours.
The tender documents will be available from July 6, 1997.
b) The cost of the tender documents is NIS 500 which must be paid in the account of the Department of Assets and Services of the Ministry of Health at the postal bank (account no. 0-03807-9).
c) For further details, contact Rami Cohen, Tel. 02-670-8833, Fax. 02-671-5570, during regular working hours.
4. Bids must be placed in the tenders box at the front desk of the offices of the Ministry of Health, 29 Rehov Rivka, 2nd floor, Jerusalem, by August 18, 1997, at 12 noon.
5. a) Questions or objections should be sent in writing to the Ministry of Health, 4 Rehov Shalom Yehuda, Jerusalem (Fax. 02-671-5570) by July 17, 1997 (Tel. 02-670-8833).
b) Bidders who do not do so shall be considered as having consented to the terms of the tender (Tel. 02-670-8833).
6. Basic Conditions for Submitting Bids:
a) A valid statement of turnover from an accountant for the year 1996, in compliance with the Income Tax Regulations, must be submitted.
b) The sum of NIS 500 must be paid for the tender documents.
This sum will not be returned.
c) Suppliers must be a legally incorporated entity, with at least five years' experience in providing services of the kind described in the tender documents, who have at least 20 full-time employees, and whose turnover for 1996 was at least NIS 5 million, as certified by an accountant. Israeli subsidiaries, whose holding company complies with the above-mentioned conditions and is guaranteeing the bid, are eligible to submit bids.
d) Proof of being a licensed trader for VAT purposes and of keeping account books must be attached to the bid.
e) An index-linked bank guarantee for 10% of the amount of the bid, valid for 120 days from the date on which the tender closes, must be attached.
f) All bidders must attend a meeting of suppliers at 9:30 a.m. on July 31, 1997, at the Ministry of Health, 4 Rehov Shalom Yehuda, Talpiot, Jerusalem, in the meeting room on the first floor.
g) The main supplier must be a software company whose employees will develop and/or adapt the main system and the applications, as explained in the tender documents.
7. The Ministry of Health reserves the right to conduct negotiations with the most suitable bidders before deciding on the winner, in accordance with Clause 7 of the Tender Regulations.
8. The Ministry is entitled to give preference to bidders who have more experience in providing the services required by this tender, and whose staff is more skilled.
9. No undertaking is given to accept the lowest bid, any part of it or any bid at all, or to order the entire project from one bidder. The Ministry is entitled to give preference to experienced bidders as explained in the tender documents, and to cancel, expand or reduce the scope of the tender because of budgetary and/or administrative and/or organizational reasons.
10. Tenders Regulations (Preference for Locally Produced Goods and Obligation to Extend Commercial Cooperation) - 1995 will apply if appropriate.

Japan fights battle with worst-ever oil spill

YOKOHAMA (Reuters) — Japan mobilized a fleet of more than 100 ships to contain a huge oil slick spreading rapidly in Tokyo Bay in a battle against the country's worst ever oil spill.

Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto declared the spill from the Japanese-operated supertanker *Diamond Grace* a national disaster and asked the police, coastguard, local governments and the Japanese and US armed forces to help in the clean-up.

A coastguard spokesman said the cleaning operation was still in preparation but authorities hoped to start it as early as possible.

The oil-cleaning ship *Seiryu-maru*, the largest of its kind in Japan, left the central Japan port of Nagoya yesterday and was expected to arrive in Tokyo Bay at noon today.

The fast response comes after severe criticism of the way an oil spill on the west coast of Japan in January had been handled by authorities.

The *Diamond Grace*, with a cargo worth about \$35 million, ruptured two oil storage holds, springing a leak of an estimated 13,400 tons of crude oil in Tokyo Bay. That far surpassed the 6,000 tons that leaked from a tanker in the western port of Niigata in

1971.

"We understand it is the worst accident of its kind," said Transport Minister Makoto Koga, who is heading the emergency operations.

By late evening, the oil slick covered an area about 9.5 km by seven km in Tokyo Bay roughly doubling in size from the afternoon.

Strong winds were pushing the huge oil slick towards the northern end of Tokyo Bay and downtown Tokyo.

As of 11.30 p.m., there was no confirmation of any oil reaching the shoreline, a spokesman for the regional coastguard in Yokohama told reporters.

A four-km oil fence was blocking the east portion of the slick which contained a heavier concentration of oil.

The Panamanian-registered, 259,999-deadweight ton tanker struck a well-known undersea reef 6.5 off Yokohama yesterday morning.

Officials said there was no immediate explanation of why such a huge ship would hit a clearly marked maritime hazard in one of Japan's busiest waterways, especially with a pilot aboard.

Yokohama maritime authorities were still questioning the captain,

pilot and crew of the ship to check if there had been any violations of rules which led to the accident, the spokesman said.

"It's very difficult to determine the cause of the incident," he said. "There could be a number of reasons."

At its shallowest point, the Nakanose undersea reef is only 12 meters below the surface. But it is marked by navigational aids, including a sophisticated radar network, computer-aided locating services and buoys.

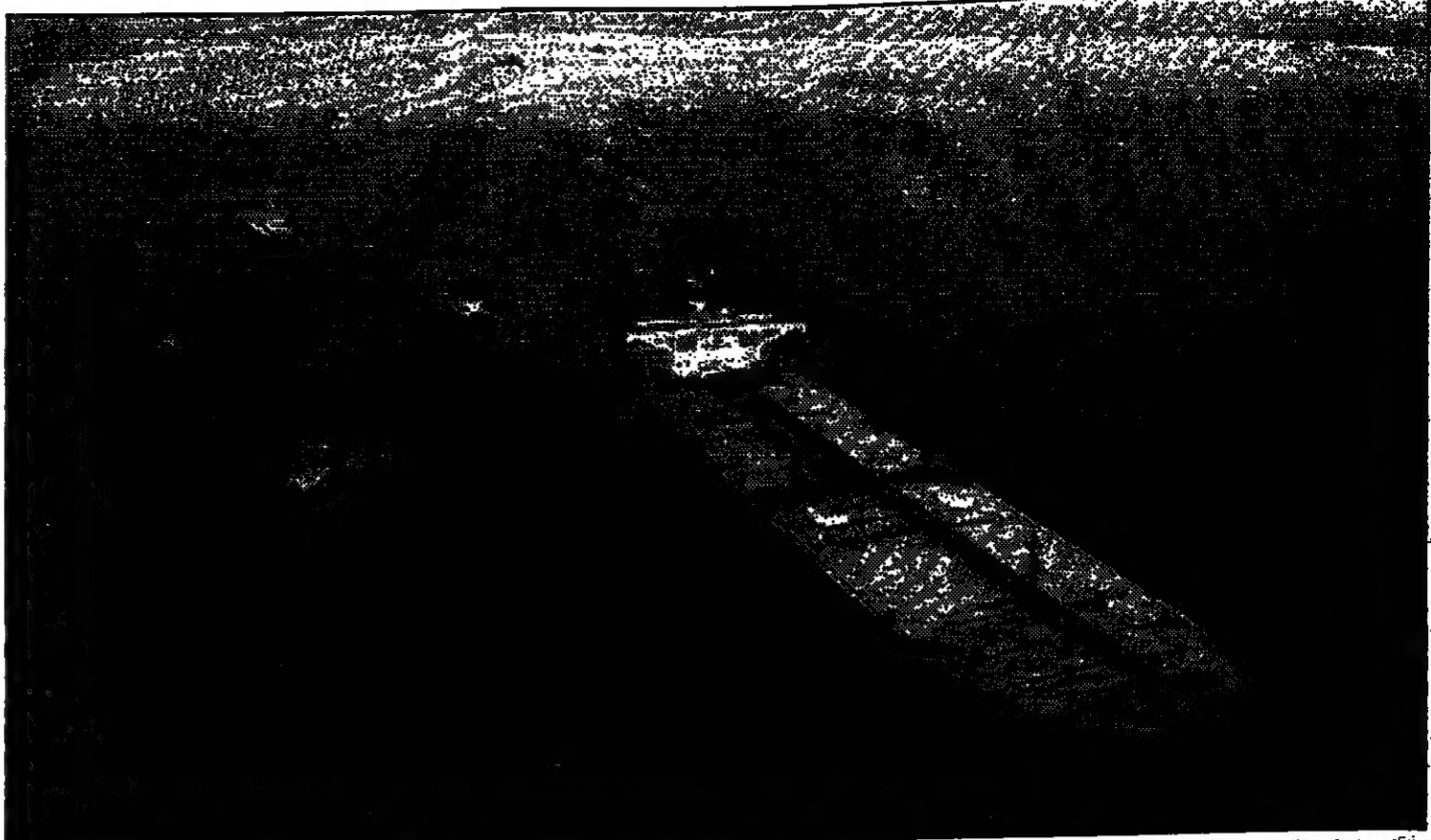
"The ship may have been using a non-recommended route," one international shipping source in Tokyo said.

"The pilot was a veteran and I don't think a simple error caused the accident," said an official of the Yokosuka Pilots' Association, which dispatched the pilot to the *Diamond Grace*.

The *Diamond Grace* was carrying some 257,000 tons of crude oil from the United Arab Emirates.

Under international convention, there is automatic insurance of up to \$194 million in such oil spills with the operators or shipowners primarily responsible for the cost.

By nightfall, the tanker left the scene of the accident under its own power and docked at its original destination.



The 260,000 ton supertanker 'Diamond Grace' leaves a trail of crude oil after scraping a reef in Tokyo Bay yesterday. (Reuters)

Hollywood tough guy Robert Mitchum dies at 79

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Robert Mitchum, the gruff, sleepy-eyed actor who played tough guys, cynics and all-around hard cases in such movies as *Night of the Hunter*, *Cape Fear* and *Thunder Road*, died at 79.

The brawny, granite-faced Mitchum, who died today at his home in Montecito in Santa Barbara County after suffering from emphysema and lung cancer, appeared in more than 100 Westerns, comedies, war movies and dramas, remaining a star for over half a century and working well into his 70s.

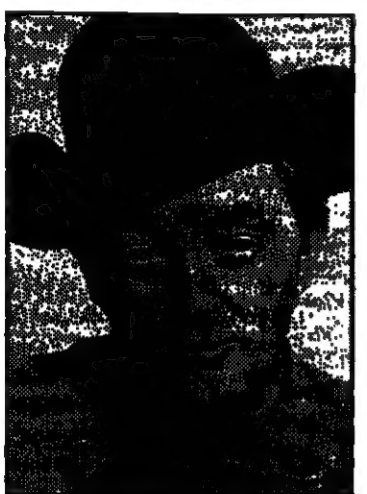
It wasn't all acting either. Offscreen, Mitchum was hard-drinking, surly and openly contemptuous of studio bosses and Hollywood.

After serving 60 days for marijuana possession in the late '40s, he emerged from jail saying: "It's just like Palm Springs without the riffraff."

"I think when producers have a part that's hard to cast, they say, 'Send for Mitchum. He'll do anything,'" Mitchum once said, adding: "I don't care what I play. I'll play Polish guys, women, midges, anything."

Despite his near-legendary status, he was nominated for only one Academy Award and failed to win it.

Filmakers realized they could rely on Mitchum for powerful performances. He proved that in such movies as *River of No Return* with Marilyn Monroe, *The Sundowners*, *Crossfire*, *Ryan's Daughter* and *The Way West*.



Robert Mitchum in a scene from the 1967 movie 'El Dorado' (Reuters)

He portrayed Raymond Chandler's private eye Philip Marlowe in *Farewell, My Lovely* in 1975 and *The Big Sleep* in 1978.

In the 1980s, he appeared in the television miniseries *The Winds of War* and *War and Remembrance* as a World War II naval officer.

"He was a wonderful actor to work with. He never made a mistake, he was always on time, very patient, and just a damn good actor," said Jane Russell, his co-star in *Macao* in 1952 and *His Kind of Woman* in 1951.

In *Night of the Hunter* (1955) he played a psychopathic preacher, in *Cape Fear* (1962) he was a vengeful ex-con, in *Thunder Road* (1958) he portrayed a bootlegger

who takes on the feds and the mob.

One of his most memorable films was *The Sundowners* in 1960 with Deborah Kerr, the other half of one of entertainment's greatest screen teams. In *Heaven Knows, Mr. Allison* in 1957, he played a tough Marine stranded on a Pacific island during World War II with a nun portrayed by Miss Kerr.

Mitchum's last picture, *James Dean: Race with Destiny*, is scheduled for release Sept. 30. It also stars his granddaughter Carrie Mitchum.

Robert Charles Duran Mitchum was born in Bridgeport, Connecticut. His mother was a Norwegian immigrant, his father a soldier and barroom brawler who was part Scottish-Irish, part Blackfoot Indian.

After World War I, Mitchum's father took the family to South Carolina, where he worked in the Charleston Navy Yard. He was crushed between two freight cars in 1919. At 16, Mitchum took to the road, riding the rails to California.

Mitchum claimed to have worked as a coal miner, deckhand, ditch digger and professional boxer, lasting 27 fights. He said he was arrested for vagrancy in Savannah, Georgia and worked on a chain gang, escaping after six days.

In 1943 he began appearing in war movies. He played a crewman in *Thirty Seconds over Tokyo*. *The Story of G.I. Joe* in 1945 was his ticket to stardom.

Hong Kong's new leader meets media

By EDITH M. LEDERER

HONG KONG (AP) — Tung Chee-hwa, in his first news conference as Hong Kong's leader, repeated pledges to hold elections by mid-1998, took a calm view of anti-China protests and gave fresh assurances about Hong Kong's freedoms.

The territory, which came under the Chinese flag Tuesday, "will have a high degree of autonomy for a long, long, long time," Tung said. Under terms of the handover, the former British colony is to maintain its capitalist system and way of life for 50 years.

Tung, a 60-year-old shipping tycoon with distinctive brush-cut hair, faced 400 foreign and Hong Kong journalists, fielding questions for an hour in English, Cantonese and Mandarin.

Appearing relaxed and affable, he tossed off occasional one-liners — "That's getting to be a barrage," he quipped after one lengthy question.

Just as smoothly, he sidestepped a few sensitive questions, such as whether legal action would be taken against democratic lawmakers who defied the government and made handover-night protest speeches from the balcony of the legislative building.

Hong Kong's elected legislature was replaced by a body set up by China. Tung

again promised elections by June 30, but declined to specify the month.

Asked how Hong Kong's 6.3 million people and mainland China's 1.2 billion can trust each other, Tung said Hong Kong must "get to know our own country better" but shouldn't feel obliged to "humor or accommodate" China.

"There will be conflicts, and obviously they will need to be talked through in order to make sure that our interests are looked after," he said. "But the important thing is that our long-term interests are very similar."

The new government's tolerance of dissent was tested Tuesday when 3,000 pro-democracy protesters marched on a main thoroughfare. Police did not interfere; in fact they carefully cleared traffic so the march could proceed.

"Would I do it this way? Obviously not," Tung said. "I would have thought of a better way of communicating." But he added: "Demonstrations, so long as they are lawful, can go right ahead." Yesterday, about 300 people viewed a controversial documentary film about the 1989 Tiananmen Square democracy movement in China.

"The Gate of Heavenly Peace" has been banned in mainland China, where officials dispute its account of the massive protests that were crushed by the army. It was shown in

Hong Kong before, but that was under British rule.

Screening it now, on soil newly Chinese, was "a kind of a test," said Jimmy Choi of the Hong Kong Arts Center, which showed it back-to-back with a mainland film on how Britain seized Hong Kong in the 19th century. Choi said no one asked the center not to show the documentary.

Yesterday, the last day of a five-day handover holiday, was supposed to have featured a final burst of open-air festivities. But it rained — hard — on Hong Kong's parade.

A planned procession of floats was canceled due to the storms, which caused floods and landslides and left at least eight people injured. This is the summer monsoon season and heavy rainfall is frequent.

Today, it will be back to business in this commercial center, and the reopening of financial markets will be a likely indicator of investor confidence in Hong Kong's future.

Stocks closed at a record high on Friday, the final day of trading before the sovereignty switch, and some analysts said the first day of trade under the Chinese flag could see it rise even more.

"I think it's going to be good on Thursday," Sean Li Chok-sun of Amsteel Securities told the *South China Morning Post*, the leading English daily.

Rival troops face off near Cambodian capital

PEAM SATHA, Cambodia

(AP) — Fighting with mortars and rocket launchers erupted near the capital yesterday between forces loyal to rival Cambodian political factions.

The extent and cause of the fighting were not clear, but the battle pitted troops supporting the rival co-premiers, Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen, against each other.

The fighting broke out in late afternoon and died off at nightfall. Casualty figures were not immediately available.

The sound of mortar and rocket fire could be heard coming from a naval base near Peam Satha, about 30 km northwest of Phnom Penh.

Witnesses reported seeing a gunboat heading up the Tonle

Sap River toward the small base.

believed to hold 40 to 100 troops, mostly loyal to Ranariddh's forces. The base was surrounded by perhaps 200 of Hun Sen's men, even after the fighting tapered off.

"Now we have encircled them and are urging them to give up their arms or they will be arrested," said Sao Sokha, deputy military police chief for Hun Sen's armed forces.

Reporters were stopped at a checkpoint just outside the base. Troops equipped with rocket launchers were seen massing near the area. They were believed to be Hun Sen loyalists.

The fighting came just two weeks after a gunbattle in central Phnom Penh between Ranariddh's bodyguards and

Hun Sen's troops left two of the prince's guards dead.

The clash is the latest violent manifestation of long-standing enmities between Ranariddh and Hun Sen, worsened in recent weeks by disputes over peace talks with the final remnants of the Khmer Rouge.

Yesterday's clash appeared linked to recent accusations by Hun Sen's party that a general loyal to Ranariddh was massing former Khmer Rouge guerrillas at a base he controls to attack Hun Sen's faction. A search of the base last week turned up nothing.

But a senior military officer aligned with Hun Sen's formerly communist Cambodian People's Party claimed Tuesday that the former guerrillas were hiding in

two temples outside the capital.

The reported strike force of ex-guerrillas is not connected to about 1,000 rebels holed up in far northern Cambodia.

Officials now are trying to persuade that group to defect. The northern rebels are the last remnants of the Khmer Rouge following the defection of about 10,000 troops last year.

They have reportedly taken their own leader, the notorious Pol Pot, hostage and are using him as a bargaining chip in talks with the government.

Hun Sen and Ranariddh are sharply divided over peace proposals for the rebels, particularly over whether amnesty should be granted to high-level leaders in exchange for making peace.

Declassified report tells how mob offered CIA to kill Castro for free

By LAURA MYERS

WASHINGTON (AP) — When the CIA secretly paid a \$150,000 price on Fidel Castro's head in the early 1960s, American mobsters made the spy agency an

offer it couldn't refuse: They'd kill the Cuban leader for free.

The revelation comes in a newly declassified document that's part of an upcoming US State Department history on the administration of former President John F. Kennedy and Cuba.

"They were ready to do the job right from the start," says Robert Maheu, who as a former Las Vegas private investigator on the CIA payroll in 1960 hired Chicago crime boss Sam Giancana to make the hit.

"We were at (ideological) war," said Maheu, who is more well known for having run the Howard Hughes casino and business empire the last several years of the reclusive millionaire's life.

The underworld murder-for-hire contract was detailed in a summary of a May 1962 CIA briefing for then-Attorney General Robert Kennedy. By that time, the Kennedy White House had launched its unsuccessful Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba and several assassination attempts against Castro had failed.

The memo is among 450 documents, nearly all newly declassified, that are included in a soon-to-be released State Department volume, *Cuba, 1961-62*. Only

two copies of the three-page memo were made, one each for the attorney general and CIA headquarters.

In the memo, then-CIA director of security Sheffield Edwards wrote that senior agency officials approved plots to kill Castro between August 1960 and May 1961. The White House wasn't mentioned. "Knowledge of this project ... was kept to a total of six persons," Edwards wrote.

At least two assassination attempts were made with CIA-supplied lethal pills and organized crime muscle in early 1961, according to the memo and congressional hearings in 1975.

Lawmakers counted a total of eight CIA tries to kill Castro in the early 1960s; Castro bragged the number was two dozen.

The memo said Maheu contacted John Rosselli, a top Giancana lieutenant, to arrange the hits on Castro.

"A figure of \$150,000 was set by the agency as a payment to be made on completion of the operation," the memo said.

Rosselli and Giancana "emphatically stated that they wished no part of any payment," it added. Still, \$11,000 in expenses were paid.

Rosselli and Giancana, both

later victims of mob hits, weren't told the US government put the contract out on Castro, but they "guessed or assumed that CIA was behind the project," the memo concludes.

After the Bay of Pigs invasion failed to oust Castro in April 1961, President Kennedy and his brother, the attorney general, tacitly approved a renewed CIA effort to kill the Cuban leader.

"They were telling the CIA, 'Do whatever it takes to get rid of Castro,'" says Peter Kornbluh, senior analyst at the National Security Archives, a private research organization.

In the January 1997 issue of *Vanity Fair*, Judith Campbell Exner, a reputed mistress of both President Kennedy and Giancana, wrote that she carried messages between the president and the gangster, including details of a plot to assassinate Castro.

Louis Smith, senior State Department historian for *Cuba, 1961-62*, said the Kennedys were obsessed with eliminating their communist nemesis.

"Robert Kennedy gave (then deputy CIA director Richard) Bissell hell for not getting rid of Castro the first time around, so Bissell took this as a green light to go forward again with assassination plots," Smith said.

Albanian president will quit

TIRANA (Reuters) — Albanian President Sali Berisha said yesterday he would resign when a leftist government took power, but tried to ensure his defeated Democratic Party stayed in control of security forces at least temporarily.

The Socialist Party has claimed victory in the first round of last Sunday's early general election and Berisha conceded the defeat of his Democrats less than 24 hours after polls closed. A second round takes place on July 6.

But Berisha and rival Socialist leaders appeared intent on flexing their political muscle until the election is over in what looks likely to be an uneasy transition of power.

Berisha, holding his first news conference since Sunday's election, said he expected the Socialists, reformed heirs of the communist party, to lead Albania's new administration. Pressed repeatedly on whether

he would therefore resign, the president, in power since 1992, said in English: "Definitely. There is no doubt of that. I never had the smallest doubt in that respect." Berisha stressed that he had certain constitutional duties to perform before the next government was formed, suggesting he would finally hand in his resignation once the new parliament convened. Under the constitution, parliament elects and removes the head of state.

Berisha, Albania's first non-communist president, won plaudits in the West for trying to steer his country on the path of market reform, but later drew criticism for increasingly authoritarian rule.

Israel's own agony aunt has the answers



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Some inspiration from Uncle Sam

Across the world anti-tobacco activists face tough hurdles

By PETER ROBISON

LONDON (Bloomberg) — As anti-smoking advocates throughout the world seek to capitalize on the US tobacco industry's landmark settlement of health claims, even those leading the fight warn that they face tough hurdles.

Aside from a more relaxed attitude toward smoking at a cultural level, campaigners face legal systems far less amenable to personal-injury claims. And since governments such as those in Japan and Spain still own their largest tobacco companies and depend on revenue from steep tobacco taxes, some nations will be unwilling to support litigation.

"It's going to be very difficult; I don't think anybody disagrees with that," said Martyn Day, a British lawyer representing 47 lung cancer sufferers in the most closely watched suit against cigarette makers outside the US.

Day today asked Britain's High Court to appoint a judge to hear their case against the nation's largest cigarette makers, Gallaher Group Plc and Imperial Tobacco Plc.

It's the first group action of its kind in Britain and one of only a handful of lawsuits against tobacco companies outside the US. A Paris lawyer last year sued France's Seita SA on behalf of two cancer-stricken smokers. Japan Tobacco Inc. faces a suit from five smokers who accuse the government-owned company of hooking them on an addictive product.

Legal experts give the cases little chance of success against the traditional industry defense — even more accepted in courts outside the US — that individuals bear responsibility for their own actions.

"If you want to go bungee jumping, you assume the risk — that's been the main defense and it's been a very effective stopper," said Julian Fulbrook, a lecturer in personal injury law at the London School of Economics.

Investors have nevertheless been jittery at the prospect of a more active anti-smoking movement in Europe and Asia. Smokers there are regarded as the industry's engine for growth after the collapse of Communism opened nations like Russia and China to foreign investors and effectively tripled the size of the global cigarette market.

Shares in Gallaher, the UK



(Brian Hendler)

maker of Benson & Hedges spun off from American Brands Inc. this year, have fallen 7 percent since the settlement. Imperial Tobacco's stock has dropped 4.4 percent and Japan Tobacco is down 3.5 percent.

"We have to assume that other markets are going to become more litigious as time goes by," said Paul Preston, an industry analyst with SGST Securities in London. "Having said that, we still don't believe the scale is going to be anywhere near what's going on in the US."

Day, a senior partner with London law firm Leigh, Day & Co., contends the US settlement is just the beginning of an escalation in the industry's liabilities. His suit uses internal documents unearthed in hundreds of US cases to try to prove the tobacco companies knew tar was carcinogenic in the 1950s and did nothing to lower the levels.

"The implications of the settlement go worldwide and I think it's

highly likely that we will see a plethora of actions in Europe and the rest of the world," Day said. Still, he warned that it could take years before the movement gathers steam.

Part of the problem is cultural, as anyone who's visited a smoky cafe in Paris or Madrid can attest. About four in 10 European adults are smokers compared with 2.5 for every 10 US adults.

In Japan, meanwhile, cigarette vending machines still line the hallways of the Health and Welfare Ministry and tobacco advertising is permitted on late-night television.

Punitive damages are also more limited in non-US courts, making it more difficult for one ruling to send a strong message. In the US, a \$750,000 award last year against the Brown & Williamson unit of BAT Industries Plc sent shares plunging and helped convince the industry to accept the \$368.5 billion settlement with 40 states suing to recover the costs of treat-

ing smokers. Day is seeking just 50,000 pounds in damages for each smoker, while plaintiffs in the case against Japan Tobacco are seeking about \$9,300 each.

Governments won't necessarily be eager backers of tough penalties either. While Britain is seeking to ban print as well as television advertising, other nations such as France and Spain have long had such bans in place with little appreciable effect on consumption.

Italy, Japan and Spain still own their largest tobacco companies and a majority of France's Seita was only recently sold to investors, making those governments unwilling to pursue themselves in the courts.

The European Union and many other nations also depend on revenue from tobacco taxes, long much higher than those in the US. Levies make up at least 67 percent of a pack's price in every EU country, according to Salomon

Brothers Inc., compared with 32 percent in the US.

In the UK, tobacco taxes raise about \$13b. a year compared with costs of about \$1b. to treat smoking-related diseases, according to the British Medical Association.

"A quite tenable economic argument can be made that the tobacco industry actually contributes more than the health care costs," said Fulbrook, the lecturer at the London School of Economics.

That doesn't bode well for anti-tobacco litigation, which only broke through in the US once states added their clout to the individual personal injury suits that tobacco companies had won with near-perfect regularity since the 1960s.

"Even in the US, plaintiffs have yet to have little success against the tobacco industry," said Jonathan Fell, an analyst with Merrill Lynch & Co. "There was the settlement, but that didn't come in court."

Yale trains women for political office

By MATTHEW LEWIS

NEW HAVEN (Reuters) — If there is a potential Margaret Thatcher anywhere in America, she is likely to be found at Yale University, where a program at Yale University is designed to bring her to life.

For the past four years, the Women's Campaign School has trained hundreds of aspiring women politicians from around the globe, teaching them how to overcome the barriers that have traditionally kept them from holding political office.

The intensive five-day course teaches everything from fundraising to writing a catchy slogan, dealing with press reporters, the curriculum is 750.

Women have made great strides in the business world but when it comes to politics, they are still a minority. Women in politics are still a minority, women in politics are still a minority, women in politics are still a minority.

The school is open to all women, not just those who are already in politics. The school is open to all women, not just those who are already in politics. The school is open to all women, not just those who are already in politics.

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Secretary Clinton is expected to win the presidency next year. When she is elected, she will be the first woman to hold the office.

Her success is the result of a campaign strategy that was developed by a team of women. The team was led by a woman, and the strategy was designed to appeal to women voters.

Perhaps the most important factor in her success was her ability to connect with women voters. She understood their concerns and spoke to them in a way that was both honest and inspiring.

Women and the issue of a woman in the White House is a topic that has been discussed for many years. It is a topic that is still very relevant today.

It is still a challenge for a woman to run for office in a country where men have traditionally held the majority of political power. But it is a challenge that is being met.

Clinton's success is a testament to the power of women in politics. It shows that women are capable of leading a country and making a difference in the world.

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The Jerusalem Post Thursday, July 3, 1997



"Blowing the Great Shofar," a sculpture by Georges Weil, was recently installed in Gellleleje to pay tribute to the courage of residents of this Danish village.

Memorial to decency

A renowned sculptor honors a small Danish fishing village for its Holocaust rescue operation, Sue Fishkoff reports

Only two men in a tiny village in Denmark are still alive to tell how they and other fishermen performed a miracle more than half a century ago. They rescued 1,700 Jewish refugees from Nazi-occupied Denmark, secretly rowing them across the North Sea to freedom in Sweden.

When Vienna-born artist Georges Weil visited the village of Gellleleje, on the northern coast of Denmark, 35 years ago with the Danish woman he would later marry, he met some of the fishermen who had taken part in the undercover seafaring operation and was struck to the core by their tale.

"The entire Jewish population of the area gathered in private homes," he relates. "Some fishing families housed 10 or more Jewish families. They would wait there until the arrangements for boats were made, and then they'd go out in the middle of the night."

The 90 refugees hiding on a church roof. A villager turned them in to the Gestapo and they were deported to Theresienstadt. Even there, Weil relates, they were protected by the Danish government and the Danish contingent of the Red Cross who pressed for them to be released before the end of the war—a remarkable achievement.

"In spite of real and great personal danger, ordinary Danes risked their lives and succeeded in rescuing almost the whole Jewish community from certain torture and death," he marvels. "Ordinary Danes became extraordinary human beings. They gave life to the lost. They brought some hope to human-

ity. In a world damned by its silence, one little powerless country, invaded by the Germans, said 'no' to the murder of its Jewish citizens."

Weil pledged that someday he would memorialize this magnificent story. The years passed, he built his career as an artist, moved to Israel, and suddenly the time seemed ripe to complete the project he had first contemplated more than three decades earlier.

Weil decided to recast one of his favorite sculptures, "Blowing the Great Shofar," showing a Jewish man in biblical garb, throwing his head back in joy and triumph as he blows on the shofar that heralds redemption for the Jewish people. He cast an edition of six and shipped one to Denmark. The installation was funded jointly by Weil and business tycoon Yuli Ofer.

At the installation ceremony recently in Gellleleje, 50 km. north of Copenhagen, the two surviving fishermen were guests of honor. The event was heavily covered by the Danish media, Weil notes with satisfaction.

"Good, they should talk about it," he says.

"The idea was to make a very bold Jewish statement. There should be a Jewish presence in every place where history has been good or bad to us."

Weil hopes to install one of the

other castings in Berlin, and a third outside the gates of Auschwitz. He says he has been negotiating with the Polish authorities about the Auschwitz installation, and was "very close" to obtaining their agreement a few years ago, before plans to build a shopping center on the spot brought new infamy to the former concentration camp.

"There have been so many attempts to de-Judaize Auschwitz, I feel it's important to have something Jewish there," he says.

WEIL'S SENSE of mission in installing memorials in Denmark, Germany and Poland is totally in character. As an infant, he fled his native Austria with his family to England, just ahead of the Nazi Anschluss. He grew up in a religiously observant home and turned to Jewish themes early in his artistic career, although never exclusively.

In 1956, when he was just 17, Weil opened his own jewelry design and manufacturing studio in London. At 18, he carved a bust of David Ben-Gurion, displayed today in the Israel Museum.

By 21, Weil was an international sensation. His one-of-a-kind jewelry pieces, in diamonds and precious metals, were being displayed together with creations by Pablo Picasso and Jean Cocteau.

In 1979, he turned to sculpture and painting full-time. He has had many exhibitions around the world, and his works are on display at the British Museum in London, the Antwerp Museum in Belgium, the Royal Glasgow Museum in Scotland, and at Yad Vashem and the Israel Museum.

In 1989, at the height of his career, Weil fulfilled a lifelong dream and immigrated to Israel, where he bought a home in Herzliya Pituah. In 1992, he installed three 2.5-meter-high bronze dancers in the lobby of the Princess Hotel in Eilat, and held his last major exhibition, at the Herzliya Museum.

Then, for personal reasons, he virtually disappeared from the public eye, until the Gellleleje installation.

Today, Weil can hardly afford to buy back the high-priced jewelry he made early in his career. He did manage, 12 years ago, to buy back the second of two bronze castings he made of the 1956 Ben-Gurion bust.

To create the mold, he used more than 100 photographs of Ben-Gurion sent to him by the Israeli Embassy in London. He had no money to pay for casting more than two busts in bronze. Even then, his grandfather had to foot the bill. The mold disintegrated

five or six years later, and no more castings could be made. The second bust stands today in the Israel Museum in Jerusalem.

In 1973, the by-now renowned Weil was commissioned to sculpt busts of both Ben-Gurion and Moshe Dayan. He spent two days with Ben-Gurion in his Tel Aviv home, and a few more days in Dayan's office on Ibn Gvirol Street. Unfortunately, the sketchbooks he used were later stolen from his room at a Herzliya hotel, and the busts were never completed.

TODAY, WEIL spends his workdays painting and sculpting in his basement studio. He has been working for the past four years on a series of large-canvas works titled "Tallim" (prayer shawls), which utilize pieces of metal and black masking tape in addition to paint. He has completed 150 paintings in the series, and says he's not selling any of them, although he has given some away.

"I'm making them only to please myself," he says, although he adds he'd love to see them hanging together one day in an exhibition.

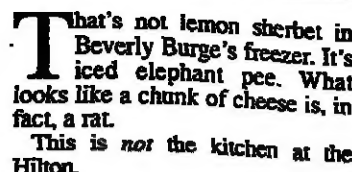
At the entrance to his studio stands the prototype for a massive "Aliya Hanukkiya" he would like to install in Jerusalem to mark the nation's 50th anniversary next year. It's a reverse image of the Arch of Titus. Instead of Roman soldiers carrying the menora of defeated Judea out of the Temple, it depicts jubilant Jews in biblical dress carrying the menora back to Jerusalem.

As Weil puts it, "The ingathering of the exiles is a very real concept to me."

Not Page One

Jews and zoos

By Sam Orbaum



That's not lemon sherbet in Beverly Burge's freezer. It's iced elephant pee. It looks like a chunk of cheese is, in fact, a rat.

This is not the kitchen at the Hilton. It's like a zoo where Beverly works — well, actually, it is a zoo. From her infirmary/quarantine unit, Beverly keeps tabs on everything at the Jerusalem zoo, from a hippo's mood swings to the shoe size of the centipedes.

Last week, her unit hit the news pages with a dramatic life-saving effort: a baby siamang fell out of a tree and then staggered into an electrified fence. "This little guy's heart stopped. It was pretty special that we saved him. We had two people up with him all night, making sure he kept breathing." The monkey was not exactly appreciative. "Yeah. He kept biting us. We solved that by giving him something else to bite. Bananas."

This is not your run-of-the-mill medical center. "Got a cassowary with cataracts, and we're looking for an eye doctor with experience — in cataracts, not

them. Hyenas are conspicuously missing for a similar reason: Arabs used to stone them as 'soul stealers.' There was a crazy rumor around town some time ago that the zoo might acquire that greatest of all zoo spectacles, the giant panda. 'The rumor was true,' Beverly says. 'Shoul Eisenberg wanted to do it, but we begged him not to. Sure, it would be good for the zoo, in terms of ticket sales and prestige. But it's not good for the pandas. They should be left where they are.'

It's a lucrative business for the Chinese, this Rent-a-Panda: they lease the animals for about \$1 million a year.

Is Beverly squeamish about feeding animals to animals? "I have no qualms about it — look, you can't feed a lion to a lion. Anyway, we do very little live-feeding, and never in the public's view. The pythons get live rabbits we raise for the purpose, and rats we get from labs. Sometimes the meerkats get live chicks. Mostly, carnivores are taught to eat dead meat."

Which brings up the question you've all been wondering: does the zoo kitchen have kosher supervision? The answer, believe it or not, is

I've been bitten by parrots, iguanas, all the primates, and the zookeeper.

cassowaries. Over there's a depressed wallaby we don't know what to do with. This cage is sort of a retirement home for aged lemurs. That? Oh, he's having surgery. Castration. This is a boxful of barn owls brought to us from the wild. And as you can see, we're up to our eyeballs in baby kessels."

On a patch of lawn outside her clinic is a chintzy-looking plastic swan. But it's not plastic. "Broke its leg in a fight," says Beverly. "C'mere, I'll show you the x-rays."

Spend a couple of hours with her and you get the feeling she'd climb into the lions' den to boost their protein levels. She's already been chewed by just about everything else. "I've been bitten by parrots, iguanas, all the primates, snakes, mad swans, wallabies and the head zookeeper. Oh, and I was scratched by a leopard." She shrugs off an admiring oob: "It's nothing. Like cutting your hand if you're a dishwasher. Or developing flat feet if you're a cop."

She forgives any animal its savage ways, except for one: the ticket-buying genus that thinks obnoxious behavior is permitted with the price of admission.

"We have a type of visitor who has a lot to learn," says the California native. "Some Israelis don't think they lack education." There are too many stories of idiots who behave like ... well, if only they would behave like animals.

Visitors pelt them with garbage, including morons who've launched bottles at the lions (one of them was badly hurt). "A toucan died because someone fed it an avocado, which is extremely toxic." Cassie, the gentle old cassowary, was once grabbed by the neck and throttled.

The public pays for the bad behavior of a few, in ways it does not realize. Management will not acquire certain animals that won't tolerate, shall we say, "interactive spectatorship." Coveted koalas, for instance, are too sensitive. Wild boars, native to Israel and "remarkably intelligent," were pulled from the exhibit because haredim threw rocks at

yes — but don't jump to conclusions: the supervision is to ensure that the food is not kosher. And herein lies a supreme uniqueness among zoos of the world.

"About 40 to 50 percent of a zoo's budget is food, but in this regard I'd have to say, thank God we're in a Jewish country: most of our food is free."

Free? "Other zoos freak out over this. There's a Jewish law, *ma'aser*, that decrees 10 percent of produce be given as tithes for the Temple. This food may not be eaten by humans, so we get it." That 10 percent is skimmed off the top, not the bottom; the animals are getting the finest fruits and veg in the land. "You won't believe this," Beverly says, nudging me into a giant walk-in refrigerator. "Look: we even get cherries. Pineapples. Artichokes and lychees. First-rate stuff, free." There's a condition all workers here understand: touch any of this food to your lips, and you're fired on the spot.

The Raxat Gan Safari has just started getting in on this too.

The zoo also gets almost free, from a slaughterhouse, carcasses of cows not deemed perfect enough to be kosher, as well as crates of misshapen bread from a major bakery. "The rest we have to buy: milk, eggs, grains, cereals, insects."

Inevitably, not all is hunky-dory with the religious establishment: the haredim recently threatened a boycott if the zoo continues to sell tickets on Shabbat — even though the tickets are sold outside the premises, by a private entrepreneur who buys them in bulk. "We are not selling tickets on Shabbat," Beverly insists hotly.

It's an inviolable law of the jungle in this city that extremist haredim will spoil a good thing. And a good thing this zoo is. "It's one of the only places where all Jerusalemites can mingle together: Arabs, Jews, Right and Left, religious, secular; it's a remarkably tension-free environment."

Put in animal terms, it's the one place where the wolf can lie down with the lamb.

Cairo to fine drivers for excessive honking

By LOUIS MEXLER

Steering his black-and-white taxi through Cairo's dense downtown traffic, Mohammed Hassan beeps his horn 20 times in just three minutes. That could cost him a week's pay under a promised noise crackdown.

Egypt's government says it must quiet the crowded, noisy chaos that is Cairo — but its decision to fine drivers threatens to create more uproar.

"How are we going to move if we don't use the horn?" Hassan demands, raising his voice above the French music blaring on his radio.

The government started a campaign last month to warn Egyptians of the dangers of noise pollution and soften them up for what it says comes later: fines from traffic police and the newly created environment police.

"Noise has become the problem and illness of the era," a newspaper advertisement from the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency tells readers. The campaign is aimed at reducing the maddening honking that is a near constant on Cairo streets, the clanging at construction sites and the blare of mosque loudspeakers that broadcast the Islamic call to prayer five times a day — sometimes so loudly they shake the windows of nearby apartments.

Previous efforts have failed, and the government is taking a gradual approach this time.

"Some people take for granted that it is noisy," said the head of the environmental agency, Salah Hafez. "We have to explain to people that noise can

hurt them, hurt their children and make them less productive."

Monitoring noise at construction sites is likely to be the easiest task, and environmental groups hope to have the cooperation of clergy in cutting down on noise from mosques.

Most difficult will be cracking down on the major source: drivers honking their horns.

As a first step, the government has banned the import of the loudest type of horns. Later, it plans to introduce a device that silences horns after a short beep.

But changing drivers' habits may prove difficult in Cairo, where drivers use their horns with deafening regularity as they negotiate the narrow, overcrowded streets in the city of 15 million.

Motorists beep to warn pedestrians and fellow drivers that they are about to run a traffic light. Taxi drivers hit their horns to attract riders. Friendly Cairenes beep at acquaintances just to say hello. The result: a cacophony of honking that in some neighborhoods never ends.

Later this year, authorities will start handing out E£100 (NIS 105) fines for horn abusers — probably starting with those who do their beeping near hospitals or in the very early morning, Hafez said.

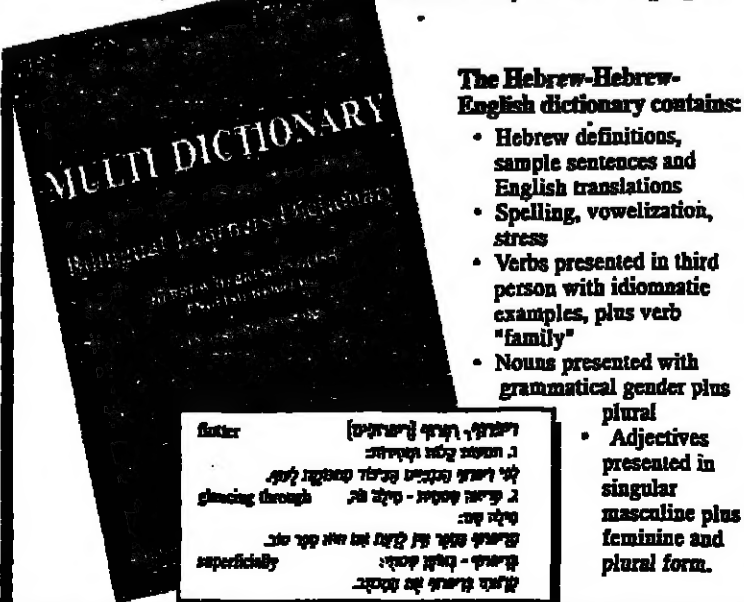
Minibus driver Said Rashad is incredulous at the thought of giving up his horn, and at the government's absurdity in even asking.

The horn is "something that is very important, just like the brakes," Rashad said. "If you can't get rid of the brakes, you can't get rid of the horn." (AP)

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From OPEC to potato chips

BLOOD AND OIL: Memoirs of a Persian Prince by Manucher Farmanfarmaian and Roxane Farmanfarmaian. New York: Random House. 510 pp. \$35.

By Aaron Leibel

Readers searching for a bargain should consider *Blood and Oil*. No, its retail price is not the point. Rather, it's what you get for your money that makes the book so attractive. First, it is the delightful memoir of an Iranian aristocrat who has lived an interesting life, both on a personal and public level. But, in addition, this book written by Farmanfarmaian and his daughter shines a bright, penetrating light on the political and social history of Iran, teaching some valuable lessons on the relations between developed and developing countries in the process.

As the title states, Farmanfarmaian was a "Persian prince" who was born in 1917, the 13th child of Prince Abdol Hossein Mirza Farman Fama, a member of the then-ruling Qajar dynasty soon to be overthrown by the short-lived Pahlavi dynasty. His mother was wife No. 8. Farmanfarmaian grew up in the luxury of his father's harem and at the age of nine was sent to France to study. (He pictures his father as an unloving tyrant, but gives him his due for demanding that his children be well educated.) After graduating from high school, Farmanfarmaian visited England, fell in love with that country (he had a love-hate relationship with England, as his later critical remarks demonstrate) and fortuitously enrolled at Birmingham University to study petroleum engineering.

Born with the proverbial silver spoon — maybe the whole silver service — in his mouth, it should come as no surprise that Farmanfarmaian eventually became director of sales for the National Iranian Oil Company, Iran's first ambassador to Venezuela, and a founder of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

When Ayatollah Khomeini came to power he was targeted for jail or worse and was forced to leave the country. After an exciting, and narrow, escape with only a suitcase — told in the beginning and at the end of the book — he has settled down in Venezuela, where he manufactures potato chips.

This book gives a graphic account of the resentment that even

a Western-educated member of the Iranian upper class felt toward the British and Americans and helps to explain the fertility of the ground for the Khomeini revolution.

In a section he entitles "A Tale of Robbery," Farmanfarmaian pillories the British for using many devices — some exploiting the letter of an agreement to distort its real spirit, others more in the realm of highway robbery — to cheat his country out of oil revenue due it from the Anglo Iranian Oil Company, the joint company set up to extract and market Iranian oil. Yet, stealing money was only a small part of British imperialism's crimes. Britain, and to a lesser extent the Soviet Union, continuously intervened in Iranian politics, buying and selling local politicians and tribes in a desperate attempt to advance their narrow political interests and secure oil.

But worst of all were British racism and discrimination against Iranian workers. His resentment is evident in the following description: "The habits of the natives — eating food with their hands, for example — disgusted the British officials. Not only were the British blissfully unaware that their own customs — eating with a fork that had at one point been in someone else's mouth — were in turn considered unclean and uncouth by the Persians, but they failed to see that fresh water for the workers to wash their hands before and after meals was therefore critical. Piping water to Kaghazabad so that it could be wasted on foolish ablutions was not in the company plans."

Following a 1953 CIA-inspired coup, the US replaced Britain as the country with the most influence in Iranian politics. During the next 25 years, the US — using arms, aid and advice — tried in vain to make Iran into the Persian Gulf bastion against Soviet imperialism.

To middle-class Iranians, the billions spent on arms would have been better used on education, health or housing, Farmanfarmaian says. Villagers arriving in the large cities by the hundreds of thousands were revolted by "the moral laxity of Western values. In Teheran, they saw vulgar movie marquees of half-naked actresses, bars and hotel swimming pools where men and women bathed together." Thus, both middle-class Iranians and villagers were alienated from the modern country the Shah was trying to construct.

The author also blames the US for pressuring the Shah to introduce land reform. He claims the



The Shah of Iran (left) and Richard Nixon in Washington in 1977. (UNIPDO)

reform was bad for the peasants who, forced to live without the services provided by their former landlords, were unable to take advantage of their newfound opportunity.

In the end, the Shah was a paper tiger, with little popular support. Perhaps, had the Shah's backers in Washington been somewhat less effusive in their head-turning praise, he might have saved his regime by paying more attention to building support for his reforms among his people.

In addition to whatever political lessons the book might teach, it is a fertile source for social historians. When he returned from his long European education, Farmanfarmaian looked at Iran with at least partially Westernized eyes. He was amazed by the frequency of social visits among his family and their friends. "Houses were constantly prepared for entertaining guests, and everyone dropped in on each other at teatime without calling in advance. Lunches were open houses at which the guests often stayed into the evening. Sometimes even spending the night. No one went to restaurants, which were primarily the purview of men and usually shy on clean linen and manners service. Instead everyone had their weekly salons."

And the book is rich in anecdotes. As a high-ranking government official and member of the aristocracy, Farmanfarmaian met many VIPs. In 1953, then vice president Richard Nixon visited Teheran, and Farmanfarmaian was assigned to be his companion and

translator at a dinner in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The future president was a bore. "I found Nixon insipid — uninterested in meeting people, uninterested in talking about petroleum. I switched the conversation to Persian art, Persepolis [the ancient capital of Persia], even world politics. He would bite on none of it. He had come to see the Shah, and the friendship established between the two would affect US-Iranian relations for the next two decades. The country itself, however, held no interest for him."

The brother of Nixon's greatest political adversary, John Kennedy, also accidentally entered our Iranian prince's world. In Tunisia in 1968 and returning to his hotel in the evening, Farmanfarmaian noticed a beautiful woman waiting for an elevator. When the elevator arrived, she hesitated and then decided not to go up. Arriving at his floor, Farmanfarmaian saw a door open and an expectant Senator Edward Kennedy looked at the elevator. The disappointed senator "closed the door with a snap, as though someone had approached him with a gun," the author relates.

Unfortunately, Farmanfarmaian tells us toward the end of the book, the notes he had assiduously saved to write his memoirs were lost. "A casualty of the [Khomeini] revolution." Fortunately for social scientists, his memory is superb. Researchers would have appreciated an index and general readers would have been helped by some maps.

Nonetheless, as I said, it is a real bargain.

Goblins of Zurich

NAZI GOLD: The Full Story of the Fifty-Year Swiss-Nazi Conspiracy to Steal Billions from Europe's Jews and Holocaust Survivors by Tom Bower. New York: HarperCollins. 381 pp. \$25.

By David E. Sanger

When Swiss television producers recently gathered dozens of Geneva citizens for a live trans-Atlantic discussion on Switzerland's role in World War II, they were unprepared for the raw emotions stirred in the outwardly placid Swiss soul. "You Americans are so insolent!" one elderly Swiss woman declared after a description of the Clinton administration's damning report on Switzerland's role as banker to the Nazis and subsequent Swiss efforts to hide the booty. "Why don't you investigate your own behavior in Vietnam?" she demanded, amid applause.

Later, another angry participant challenged the motives of the Americans and their allies, with their constant investigations dredging up the ugly side of Switzerland's tilted neutrality. "Are you trying to destroy us?" he wondered.

It is a question, it turns out, that the Swiss have asked repeatedly for half a century now in response to repeated efforts to force them to disgorge their windfall profits from the Holocaust. In 1946 similar language was used by Walter Stucki, Bern's chief representative in the negotiations over German assets remaining in Switzerland. At the time, the United States was threatening — ineffectually, as it turned out — to freeze Swiss assets in America if the Swiss government failed to live up to its agreements to turn over hundreds of millions of dollars in German assets. Stucki suggested that Washington's real motive was to undermine Switzerland's secretive and powerful banks — and thus the tiny country itself.

Fifty years later, Jean-Pascal Delamuraz, a conservative politician who was about to rotate out of the presidency of the Swiss Federation, sounded a lot like the long-dead Stucki. In an interview last December he maintained that what really motivated the latest round of inquiries was an ill-concealed desire to destroy Switzerland as a world financial center, because it threatened bigger money centers in New York and London. (Delamuraz's allegation was overshadowed by his other assertion in the same interview: that Jewish groups were using declassified records to "blackmail" Switzerland into establishing a compensation fund for Holocaust victims. He later apologized for the blackmail remark but let the rest of his comments stand.)

In *Nazi Gold*, Tom Bower, a television documentary producer for the British Broadcasting Corporation and the author of several books about the odd interactions of the Allies and the Nazis after World War II, has assembled a blow-by-blow account of Swiss evasions that draws eerie parallels between the postwar era and the pre-

sent. In both 1946 and 1996 he finds a potent mixture of base motives and bad actors. There are greedy Swiss bankers who stonewalled investigators to protect a huge windfall of abandoned gold, art and real estate. And there are Nazi sympathizers who, in a reminder that Frederick Forsyth's *Odessa File* was rooted in reality, seem bent on helping Hitler's survivors tuck plenty away in case the Third Reich ever has a chance to rise again.

Bower leaves little doubt about Switzerland's motives. "Protecting German property and Nazi loot and defending the secrecy laws," he concludes, "acted as a magnet for potential customers seeking a safe refuge for their undeclared income."

At the center of Bower's story are the records and recollections of Emil Puhl, the deputy director of the Reichsbank, Germany's central bank, and the coordinator of the Nazi effort in the 1930s and '40s to use Swiss neutrality and secrecy to launder gold taken from the central banks of Europe. Puhl made sure this "monetary gold" was shipped over the border to Switzerland, often after it had been smelted together with "nonmonetary gold," the polite euphemism that postwar investigators used to describe wedding rings and tooth fillings extracted from the corpses of Holocaust victims.

The Swiss (along with the Italians and the Portuguese) asked few questions about the provenance of the gold, helping to transport it and resell it so that the ingots could bear the seals of respectable mints. Then they traded it or used it as collateral for loans to Germany, effectively providing hard currency to a Third Reich that was severely strapped for cash.

When the war ended, the Swiss offered a series of backtracking explanations of their behavior — many of which were resuscitated during Senator Alfonzo D'Amato's hearings on the issue last October. First the Swiss government issued denials that many of the individual transactions took place. When bank records or intelligence reports surfaced, it turned to legalistic defenses, arguing that under the rules of occupation the Nazis had clear title to anything they looted from central banks.

Finally, there was the small-surrounded-nation argument. Switzerland survived the war, the Swiss insisted — with some merit — because they adhered to the role of the neutral, trading with all sides. This is what the Swiss foreign minister, Flavio Cotti, meant a few weeks ago when he charged the Clinton administration with ignoring the historical context of Switzerland's actions.

The problem with the historical-context argument is that it fails to explain Swiss actions after Hitler's surrender. For it was in 1946 that the big cover-ups and diversions of assets began. Lengthy negotiations were held in Washington over this prickly subject. A particularly duplicitous deputy head of the Swiss National Bank, Alfred Hirs, blurted out to the Americans, "Do you want to take 500 million Swiss francs of gold" — worth roughly

\$1.25 billion today — "and ruin my bank?" It was a telling moment, because until his outburst the Swiss had not acknowledged holding anywhere near that much looted gold.

Bower is at his best describing the interaction of the American and Swiss negotiators, and the pressures the Swiss banks placed on their government. But his account would have been even better had it not been so rushed. When the Clinton administration's report came out in early May, it was accompanied by a wealth of newly declassified documents that raise a host of new questions — both about the Swiss and about Washington. Bower had no access to this material.

For example, the study — called the Eisenstat report because it was compiled by Stuart E. Eisenstat, a former senior official in the Carter White House and until recently an under secretary of commerce — offered compelling evidence that the gold pulled from Holocaust victims' teeth was intermingled with central-bank gold. This raises the gruesome and tantalizing question of how much of that gold remains in Swiss banks.

And Eisenstat, with great understatement, called the 1946 Washington accord with the Swiss a "bad bargain," noting that the Swiss banks agreed to deposit only \$58 million in looted gold — a quarter or less of their estimated windfall — into an account for return to Europe's central banks. They also agreed to liquidate another \$500 million or so in other German assets in Switzerland — real estate, equipment, stolen art — and turn over half of that amount to help resettle refugees. They never delivered.

Bower and Eisenstat agree on the reason for the Swiss perfidy: Those assets were the security the Swiss banks held to assure that a rebuilt Germany would repay its loans. But Bower moves too quickly over the dynamics of the postwar debate in Washington about whether to confront the Swiss. Essentially he repeats the oft-offered explanation that by the early 1950s the Truman administration was more concerned with the Cold War than with justice for Holocaust victims.

Undoubtedly the Swiss will argue that books like Bower's are not balanced: they do not tell the story of the Swiss who opposed the Nazis, or of the modern-day efforts to make amends. There is some legitimacy to that critique. But it is unclear, as that recent encounter in the Geneva television studio showed, that the Swiss are now ready to face the truth — or that in a forthcoming national referendum they will approve a proposal to set up a large compensation fund for the heirs of the Nazis' victims and various humanitarian causes. There are still many facts to be revealed, and the Swiss do not appear to be in any hurry to shine a bright light on one of their darkest moments.

(New York Times)

David E. Sanger, a Washington correspondent for The New York Times, has covered Switzerland's wartime dealings with Germany.

BOOK BYTES

CHINA LANE, the Russian answer to America's best-selling *Primary Colors*, dramatizes back-room Kremlin maneuvers and bent (Western) big money. A mythical Chinese setting is the backdrop for the thinly disguised cast of characters led by President Yel Tsin and his daughter Tan Yel, who act out the real-life Boris Yeltsin-Tatiana Dyachenko (Yeltsin's daughter) no-holds-barred campaign for the Russian presidency.

The author, Edward Topol, 58, who immigrated to the US 19 years ago, first hit the headlines with *Red Square*, his 1983 thriller about Soviet corruption. Topol spent seven months in Moscow researching and "soaking up the atmosphere" for *China Lane*. He came across certain facts in the real Yeltsin campaign that not even he dared fictionalize. "It's too dangerous, even for a novel. People get killed over things like this," said Topol.

INCIDENTALLY, *Primary Colors* author Joe Klein, ex-alias Anonymous, is in trouble. One Daria Carter-Clark has filed a \$120-million libel suit against him. Carter-Clark, who runs a literary program in New York's Harlem neighborhood, identifies herself as

the real-life individual who inspired Ms. Baum, a Klein character sexually linked with the fictionalized President Clinton character. The defendant's lawyer does not deny that Klein, the journalist, was in attendance when Clinton visited and briefly met Carter-Clark in the library where she teaches.

"WHEN A passenger of the foot heave in sight, toodle the horn. Trumpet at him melodiously at first, but if still obstacles your passage, then toodle him with vigor." This attempt of a Japanese driver to speak English comes from Bill Bryson's book, *The Mother Tongue* (Hamish Hamilton). As colorful as it may be, Bryson's quote is indicative of the importance of speaking English around the world. Today, some 370 million people speak English as a mother tongue, and 98 million as a second language. It is predicted that by the year 2,000 there will be one billion people learning or speaking English.

Perhaps more importantly for the future, already 75 percent of the world's mail and 80 percent of electronically stored information is in English, making it the most important language through the written word. David Brauner

HARDCOVER Fiction

1. Plum Island by Neilson Delville. (Warner \$25.) A detective probes the murder of a Long Island couple who may have been involved in germ warfare research.
2. Fat Tuesday by Sandra Brown. (Warner \$24.) A cop turned outlaw and the wife of a sinister attorney go on a tour in New Orleans during Mardi Gras.
3. The Partner by John Grisham. (Doubleday \$26.95.) The search for \$90 million stolen by a Mississippi lawyer, believed dead, who is hiding in Brazil.
4. Up Island by Anne Rivers Siddons. (HarperCollins \$24.) An Atlanta woman, after a bad marriage and her mother's death, seeks a new life on Martha's Vineyard.
5. London by Edward Rutherfurd. (Crown \$25.95.) Two thousand years of life in Britain's capital as seen through the eyes of six families.
6. The President's Daughter by Jack Higgins. (Putnam \$23.95.) The president copes with kidnappers who threaten to kill his child.
7. Pretend You Don't See Her by Mary Higgins Clark. (Simon & Schuster \$25.) A chance witness to a murder is obliged to live anonymously to save her life.
8. Chasing Cezanne by Peter Mayle. (Knopf \$23.) A photographer pursues a painting taken from a house in the south of France.
9. Oh, the Places You'll Get by Dr. Seuss. (Random House \$16.) Verse and pictures.
10. The Notebook by Nicholas Sparks. (Warner \$16.95.) A World War II veteran meets an old flame who is about to be married.

HARDCOVER Non-fiction

1. Into Thin Air by Jon Krakauer. (Villard \$24.95.) A journalist's account of his ascent of Mount Everest in 1996, the deadliest season in history.
2. Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt. (Scribner \$24.) An Irish-American recalls his childhood amid the miseries of Limerick.
3. The Bible Code by Michael Drosnin. (Simon & Schuster \$25.) A journalist contends that important events have been predicted in the Bible.
4. Brain Droppings by George Carlin. (Hyperion \$19.95.) Comments on life and the ways of the world by the stand-up comedian.
5. Just As I Am by Billy Graham. (Harper San Francisco/Zondervan \$28.50.) The autobiography of the crusading preacher.
6. The Gift of Fear by Gavin de Becker. (Little, Brown \$22.95.) Intuitive signals that can protect us from becoming the victims of violence.
7. Into the Storm by Tom Clancy with Fred Franks Jr. (Putnam \$27.50.) The battle against Iraq during the Gulf war, as experienced by a general who commanded armor and Infantry.
8. Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil by John Berendt. (Random House \$23.) The mysterious death of a young man in Savannah, Ga.
9. Conversations with God; Book 1 by Neale Donald Walsch. (Putnam \$19.95.) The author addresses questions of life and love, good and evil, guilt and sin.
10. The Perfect Storm by Sebastian Junger. (Norton, \$23.95.) An account of the northeast of 1991, focusing on a crew of fishermen from Gloucester, Mass.

PAPERBACK Fiction

1. Songs in Ordinary Time by Mary McGarry Morris. (Penguin \$13.95.) A divorced woman and her three children, summering in Vermont in 1960, are menaced by a con man.
2. The Deep End of the Ocean by Jacquelyn Mitchard. (Signet \$7.50.) The disappearance of a three-year-old brings a family anguish and redemption.
3. The Clayborn Brides: Parts 1-2 by Julie Garwood. (Pocket \$2.99 each.) "One Pink Rose" and "One White Rose" relate the 19th-century romantic adventures of three Montana brothers.
4. Exclusive by Sandra Brown. (Warner Vision \$7.50.) Should a television reporter broadcast the secrets confided to her by the first lady?
5. Melice by Danielle Steel. (Dell \$7.50.) A woman struggles to overcome memories of betrayals and assaults.
6. Demon Seed by Dean Koontz. (Berkley \$7.50.) Obsessive desire for complete privacy is threatened by the ultimate computer.
7. The Runaway Jury by John Grisham. (Island/Dell \$7.99.) A woman in a Mississippi Gulf Coast town sues a tobacco company for causing her husband's death.
8. The Burning Man by Philip Margolin. (Bantam \$6.95.) A young man tries to recover his father's respect while serving as a public defender.
9. The Blackstone Chronicles: Parts 1-6 by John Saul. (Fawcett \$2.99 each; Part 6 \$3.99.) Serial horror set in a New England town.
10. Prayers for the Dead by Faye Kellman. (Avon \$6.99.) Peter Decker and Rita Lazarus in pursuit of the murderer of a famous surgeon.

PAPERBACK Non-fiction

1. The Heart of a Woman by Maya Angelou. (Bantam \$12.) Volume 4 of the poet's autobiography.
2. Undaunted Courage by Stephen E. Ambrose. (Touchstone/S&S \$16.) The story of how Thomas Jefferson sponsored Lewis and Clark.
3. Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer. (Anchor/Doubleday \$12.95.) The story of a young man whose obsession with the wilderness had a tragic end in Alaska.
4. Spontaneous Healing by Andrew Weil. (Fawcett \$12.95.) How the body heals itself.
5. Emotional Intelligence by Daniel Coleman. (Bantam \$13.95.) Factors other than IQ that contribute to a successful and happy life.
6. The Color of Water by James McBride. (Riverhead \$12.) A black writer and musician recalls his experiences growing up with his white mother in a Brooklyn housing project.
7. Reviving Ophelia by Mary Pipher. (Ballantine \$12.50.) The everyday dangers that beset teenage girls.
8. A Civil Action by Jonathan Harr. (Vintage \$13.) Householders sue industrial polluters.
9. The Dilbert Principle by Scott Adams. (Harper Business \$11.95.) A satirical look in words and cartoons at the follies of business and management.
10. Girlfriends by Carmen Renee Berry and Tamara Traeder. (Wildcat Canyon \$12.95.) The ties that bind women of all ages and all kinds.

PAPERBACK Miscellaneous

1. Don't Sweat the Small Stuff... and It's All Small Stuff by Richard Carlson. (Hyperion \$8.95.) How to enjoy life more and contribute to the world we live in.
2. Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul compiled by Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen and Kimberly Kirberger. (Health Communications \$12.95.) Inspiration.
3. Chicken Soup for the Woman's Soul compiled by Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen, Jennifer Ross, Hawthorne, and Carol Shimmoff. (Health Communications \$12.95.) Inspiration.
4. Dr. Atkins' New Diet Revolution by Robert C. Atkins. (Avon \$6.50.) Ways to lose weight and achieve a healthy body.

HARDCOVER Miscellaneous

1. Eight Weeks to Optimum Health by Andrew Weil. (Knopf \$23.) A physician's diet, exercise and psychological program.
2. Kids Are Punny (Warner \$10.) A collection of jokes submitted by children to The Rosie O'Donnell Show.
3. Simple Abundance by Sarah Ban Breathnach. (Warner \$17.95.) Advice for women seeking to improve themselves.
4. Mars and Venus on a Date by John Gray. (HarperCollins \$25.) Steps to take to achieve a lasting, loving relationship.

STEIMATZKY'S BESTSELLING PAPERBACKS

1. Airframe by Michael Crichton. Arrow, Ballantine.
2. Clinic by Jonathan Kellerman. Warner, Bantam.
3. Her Own Rules by Barbara Taylor Bradford. Harper.
4. Executive Orders by Tom Clancy. HarperCollins, Berkley.
5. English Patient by Michael Ondaatje. Vintage, Picador.
6. Open Heart by A.B. Yehoshua. Harcourt Brace.
7. Third Twin by Ken Follett. Fawcett, Pan.
8. Total Control by David Baldacci. Pocket.
9. Heart Song by Virginia Andrews. Pocket.
10. Jephthe's Daughter by Naomi Ragen. Warner.



Corn fritters can be topped with maple syrup, honey or molasses

A LA CARTE A Land of Plenty

By DANIEL ROGOV

The US always has been a land of plenty. When John Knowles arrived in New England in 1622 he wrote in his diary that "even more than the many goodly groves of fruit trees and clear running streams, there are fowl in abundance, fish in multitude, deer aplenty and, besides, millions of doves which sit pecking of the full, ripe grapes. If this land be not rich, then is the whole world poor."

When American society was still in its nascent form, crops indigenous to North America and hitherto unknown in Europe became the everyday fare of Americans. Corn, chocolate, potatoes, peanuts, tomatoes, a large variety of beans, sweet potatoes, squash, and pumpkins were all available for the taking. The crop that proved most important to the settlers, however, was corn, the great staple of the Indians. Simple to grow in nearly all climates, and so easy to raise that it could be planted even among dead trees and stumps, corn became vital to the continuation and development of the land.

The somewhat bitter and nutty flavor of corn took some getting used to, but once the settlers took to it there was no stopping their inventiveness. Cut from the cob at a young, milky stage and then stewed with beans and a bit of dog meat for flavor, corn kernels served as the base of the dish the Indians called succotash. Newcomers to the land substituted beef for the dog and later expanded their repertoire by adding chicken, pork, diced turnips, and other vegetables.

Corn also was used to make pudding and bread. In New England, corn flour was mixed together with butter, eggs, spices, and molasses to make Indian pudding. The Shakers, a religious sect as famous for their cooking as their faith, substituted maple syrup in the recipe. In other regions, corn flour was combined with salt, water, fat, eggs, and potatoes and baked in hot ashes, yielding up that treat known as cornbread.

The settlers could not live on corn alone, but this was no prob-

lem. Venison was so plentiful in the 1700s that people grew tired of it. Bear meat was also popular and, according to historian Margaret Mehr, "savory and inclined to a flavor not unlike that of overripe beef." Even the bear served its purpose. The men of the towns used it to back their hair, country boys rubbed their bodies with it to keep warm during the winter, and in New Orleans it was used as a substitute for olive oil.

Depending on where one lived, there were also plenty of ducks, beaver and wildcats. Salmon and sturgeon were so abundant that many were salted for use in the winter. Even the sweet meat of rattlesnakes was considered a delicacy.

Even though bear and beaver meat have fairly well passed out from the American culinary scene (except in Kentucky and Tennessee, where they remain popular among mountain people), many of the dishes that pleased the early settlers have, in one way or another, become a lasting part of the national American diet.

More than a quarter of a billion Americans will celebrate the anniversary of their independence tomorrow. Many of them will dine on one or more of the following dishes, each of which was enjoyed by George Washington and Thomas Jefferson when they had lunch together the day after they signed the Declaration of Independence.

CORN FRITTERS

about 15 ears of fresh corn or 3 cups frozen corn kernels
2 egg yolks, well beaten
1 Tbsp. flour
1/4 tsp. salt
pinch of grated nutmeg
2 egg whites, beaten stiff
1/4 cup butter

Grate enough of the corn to make 3 cups. In a mixing bowl make a batter by combining the corn, egg yolks, flour, salt, and nutmeg. When the mixture is smooth, fold in the beaten egg whites.

In a large heavy skillet, melt the butter and let it heat just until it begins to turn brown. Add the bat-

ter, a tablespoon at a time, forming individual fritters. Cook until the bottom and turn them over and brown the second side.

Serve hot with maple syrup, honey or molasses. (Serves 4-6.)

CORNEED BEEF HASH

1/2 cup butter or parve substitute
1/2 cup onion, chopped
1 green pepper, seeded and diced
2 ribs celery, without leaves, chopped
4 cups cooked corned beef, diced
1 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
3 Tbsp. chives, finely chopped
dash of Tabasco if desired
1/2 cup chicken stock
2 cups boiled potatoes, diced
6 eggs, poached or fried

In a large heavy skillet, melt the butter and in this saute the onion, green pepper, and celery until tender. Add the corned beef, Worcestershire sauce, chives, salt, pepper, and Tabasco. Cook over a medium flame and, while stirring constantly, slowly add the stock. Continue cooking, stirring until heated through. About five minutes before the cooking is completed, add the potatoes.

Distribute the hash on six preheated serving plates, flatten with a spatula and on each portion place a poached egg. Serve at once. (Serves 6.)

FRIED CHICKEN

1/4 cup corn or peanut oil
1/2 cup dry white wine
1 clove garlic, minced
1/2 tsp. each celery salt, thyme, and tarragon
1 1/2 tsp. each salt and black pepper
2 chickens, about 2 1/2 kg. in all, cut into convenient serving pieces
1 cup flour, sifted
2 Tbsp. butter or parve substitute, melted
3 egg yolks, beaten lightly
1 cup flat beer
1 medium onion, chopped finely oil for deep frying

In a large bowl, combine the cooking oil, wine, garlic, celery

salt, thyme, tarragon, and 1/2 tsp. each of the salt and pepper. Mix well and in this marinate the chicken, covered and refrigerated for 3-4 hours, turning the pieces several times.

Put a separate bowl combine and mix the flour, remaining salt and pepper, melted butter and egg yolks. Gradually add the beer, stirring constantly. Let this batter stand, covered and refrigerated, for 3 hours.

Remove the chicken from the marinade and pat the pieces dry on toweling. Dip the pieces into the batter, coating well, and then place the pieces on a rack and let dry for 1 hour.

Preheat deep oil to 180°C and in this fry the onions until they are brown. Remove the onions with a slotted spoon and discard them. Then add the chicken pieces to the oil, cooking until they are nicely browned and done (about 15 minutes). Drain on paper toweling and serve hot. (Serves 6.)

INDIAN PUDDING

2 Tbsp. cornmeal
6 cups cold milk
3 cups hot milk
1 cup molasses
1/4 cup butter
1/2 tsp. each ginger and cinnamon
2 eggs, well beaten
sweet cream, whipped cream or vanilla ice cream for serving

In a mixing bowl, combine the cornmeal with 1 cup of the cold milk. Stir this mixture into the hot milk and place in the top of a double boiler. Over but not in hot water, cook and stir the mixture until smooth. Continue cooking for 20 minutes after the mixture is smooth.

Remove from the heat and add the molasses, butter, ginger, and cinnamon and then stir in the beaten eggs.

Pour the mixture into a buttered casserole and over the top pour the remaining cold milk. Bake in a medium oven for about 1 hour. The pudding will be done when a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.

Serve hot with whipped cream or vanilla ice cream. (Serves 6-8.)

Food & Drink

Phyllis' Notebook Galilee time warp

By PHYLLIS GLAZER

There was a special magic in growing up in the US during the late '60s and early '70s — a time when youth felt empowered to bring about social and political change, which they ultimately succeeded in doing. It was a time of optimism, of times gliding into euphoria. It was a time of naivete.

Walking into the restaurant at Amirei Hagall was like entering a time warp. Nestled just under the main road overlooking the breathtaking scenery of the Kineret and the surrounding hills, Amirei Hagall is both a restaurant and a home with an atmosphere harking back to that magical time.

The owners, three former army buddies in their 30s, dreamed of creating a place in Galilee where good music, good food, and good vibes coexisted with an environmentally friendly atmosphere. A place for Druse, Arabs and Jews to listen to blues and other music from around the world. And they did it.

The food is good and the atmosphere magical. The eight guest rooms are unpretentious and comfortable, with double beds, and

additional mattresses for children. Some of the restaurant's produce is grown organically on the premises, and there is an animal corner where, if they play their cards right, children can help milk the goat and enjoy its milk.

The night we spent there, Canaan, a duo playing ethnic music, performed, followed by another duo playing Irish music into the night. The adults dined on vegetarian moussaka and a steak, both of which were good. There is a special children's menu. We'll be back. For more information, call Amirei Hagall at (06) 698-9815/6.

VEGETARIAN MOUSSAKA

1 container 9% fat cheese
1 container cottage cheese
100 gr. Bulgarian cheese
1 heaping tsp. fresh marjoram, minced
4-5 medium eggplants, sliced into 1 cm. slices
olive oil for frying
1 Tbsp. butter
1 level Tbsp. flour
1/2 cup white wine
1/3 liter milk
pinch of nutmeg

salt and pepper to taste
1 kg. ripe tomatoes, peeled
150 gr. grated yellow cheese
1 cup prepared tahina, diluted to sauce consistency

Mix together the white cheeses, Bulgarian cheese, and the marjoram.

Saute the eggplant slices in olive oil till golden brown and set aside.

Prepare bechamel sauce by melting butter, stirring in the flour and continuing to stir till smooth. Then add the wine, milk, nutmeg, and salt and pepper to taste. Bring to a boil, stirring constantly to prevent burning at the bottom of the pot and remove from heat. Bring to room temperature.

Cut the tomatoes in cubes and drain to remove excess liquids. Put half of the tomatoes in the bottom of a 25 x 35 cm. baking pan. Put half of the fried eggplant slices on top, follow with a layer of white cheeses, and cover with half of the bechamel. Top with the remaining eggplant slices, the rest of the tomatoes, the yellow cheese and the remaining bechamel. Pour the tahina over the top evenly. Bake at 180°C until the tahina is golden. (Serves 6.)

Rogov's Shopping Basket A Bad Way To Start A Week

By DANIEL ROGOV

As a person devoted to good food, I look forward with optimism to nearly every new product that must be sampled.

Not too long ago, I had a week that proved that such optimism is not always rewarded.

One of the most disappointing products I sampled was the new Pashtu Diet of local company General Frost. Frozen mini-quickies, recommended for cooking in either a regular or microwave oven, it seems that their main appeal is that they contain only about 50 calories per portion.

Sadly, the quickies I sampled, one filled with mixed vegetables and the other with mushrooms, were as low in flavor, sophistication, and charm as they were in calories and fat content. Both were far too salty (largely I suspect because they contain something identified vaguely on the list of ingredients as "chicken-flavored soup"), tended to stick to the roof of the mouth, and left me with a raging thirst after I had finished eating them. Packages of 360 gr., each containing six mini-quickies, cost NIS 13.90.

In keeping with the adage that advises us to smile because things could be worse, I smiled and continued in my tastings. Alas, as I sampled the Snack Spreads of Italian company Rio Mare, I realized that things indeed had gotten worse. These products, which come in plastic tubes, are basically spreads meant to be served on toasted bread.

I sampled three versions — pink salmon, tuna, and tuna that was said to be "in the flavor of pizza." It may have been the plastic squeeze tubes or it may have been the texture and flavor of these things, but each reminded me more of toothpaste than of salmon or tuna.

Extremely grainy, lacking in anything other than the vague flavor of fish, and with no saving graces that I could find, I could not help but wonder why anyone would buy these primitive products. I did, I confess, sample the so-called pizza-flavored spread several times, but no matter how hard I tried, could find no relationship at all between it and any pizza I had ever tasted. It seems to me that the price of NIS 8.99 for 100-gr. tubes of these products is far too high. In fact, I found these spreads so unappealing I would not eat them even if they were given to me for free.

Much to my dismay, the worst of my tastings was yet to come. I sampled some of the candies of the increasingly popular chain of stores The World of Sweets. I did not so much mind that some of these sweets come in the shape of worms, others are shaped like

false teeth, and yet others reminded me of spiders, as I did that their flavors and textures reminded me of bright, colored rubber and sand.

There are stores like these in Europe and America. I always wondered who, other than the most unsophisticated of children, would be interested in eating their candies. I continue to wonder.

Without Excitement

Much of the rest of my week was devoted to tastings of products perhaps best categorized as banal. The Humous Asli of Tsabar Salads that I sampled was neither better nor worse than most of the competing products on the market. What made this version a bit more interesting than some of its competitors was that each package of humous is accompanied by a 20-gr. portion of s'hug. This Yemenite spice mixture, which contains peppers of the sha'ata variety, added a nice touch of hotness to an otherwise ordinary humous mixture. At NIS 9.50 for a 500-gr. portion, the product is reasonably priced.

As to Memories of Marrakesh, the precooked couscous in the President's Choice line of the Greenberg Supermarket chain, what can I say except that I found it amusing that someone considers it necessary to import couscous from Canada to the Middle East.

The couscous, which is based on durum-wheat semolina, needs only to be plunged into boiling water and to stand for five or six minutes until it is ready. If there is a shortcoming to the product, which costs NIS 6.45 for a 340-gr. package, it is that unless it is stirred frequently it tends to form a rather solid cake that can be difficult to separate into individual grains.

Far Better Endings

Fortunately for my palate, my stomach, and my sense of humor, my week ended on far better notes, not at home but at the restaurants I currently consider the two very best in the country.

Some chefs, especially in America, change their menus so frequently that it has become virtually impossible to return to find old favorites waiting for you. Local chefs have avoided this disease to date, the wisest among them leaving traditional dishes in place as long as clients want them and adding new dishes from time to time to keep us fascinated.

During recent visits to Israel Aharoni's Tapuah Zahav and Shalom Machovsky's Mul Yam, I made a point of skipping over some favorites in order to try their new dishes.

At Tapuah Zahav ("Golden Apple"), the first-course dishes I sampled were a delicate soup of yellow peppers flavored with

oregano oil and topped with a round of barely melted Parmesan cheese; a double tartar, one of raw salmon and one of raw red tuna, each placed on a scallop shell and sprinkled over with coarse salt; and cannelloni filled with mountain mushrooms served with grilled scallops Saint-Jacques, shrimps and mussels, surrounded by an asparagus cream that had been enriched with a saffron sauce.

The new main courses I tried included one of goose liver on a round of polenta served with a salad of mixed lettuces with chopped portobello mushrooms, and another a virtually perfect locus steak served with a jam of red peppers and apricots. Each dish demonstrated that with the aid of talented sous-chef Itai Skoropa, Tapuah Zahav comfortably maintains its place as the very best restaurant in the country.

Tapuah Zahav: 40 Rehov Montefiore, Tel Aviv. Open Sunday-Friday 12:30-2:30 and 7:30-10. Tel. (03) 566-0931. Expensive but worth every hard-earned shekel.

At Mul Yam ("By the Sea") where the specialty is seafood, we started off with red mullet salad, served with conch-shaped pasta that had been colored black by the use of squid ink, and continued with shrimps and mozzarella on Italian-style crostini. From here it was on to one portion of shrimps and lobster with a crisp, refreshing ratatouille; another of ravioli filled with seafood that were served with a generous number of periwinkles and shrimps; and two portions of scallops St. Jacques, one served on fettuccine and the other on an arugula salad.

The desserts we tried, one of a savarin cake served with panacotta and another of citrus ice cream with strawberry sauce, were both exquisite.

With dishes like these added to the menu, chef Yoram Nitzan continues to delight diners and after less than two years, Mul Yam has definitely moved to the very top rank of local restaurants. Be sure when visiting to explore the excellent wine list. The wines that accompanied our own meal were a 1993 Pouilly Fuisse cuvee Hors-Classe, a 1992 grand cru Batard Montrachet from Prosper Maufoux, and a 1994 Sancerre. Be sure to try as well some of the exquisite Armagnacs offered here. My own favorites are the Prince d'Armagnac of Sameleus and the 1963 Armagnac Collectionneur of Dupeyron.

Mul Yam, in the Tel Aviv port. Oyster bar open daily from 12 noon to after midnight. Kitchen open from 12 to 4 and from 7:30 to 11. Telephone (03) 546-9920. Expensive but excellent value for money.

Wine Cellar

By DANIEL ROGOV

A Quantum Leap Forward

During the past several years, the wine world has seen a quantum leap forward. The 1990s have been a decade of change, of growth, of innovation. The wine industry has seen a renaissance, a rebirth, a return to its roots. The wine world has seen a quantum leap forward.

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TRAVEL

By SUE FISHKOFF

Old Soviet statues don't die. They just get put out to pasture.

At least, that's what Hungary did with the monumental bronze and stone relics of its former socialist regime. The four-meter-tall Lenin that used to gaze down approvingly on Budapest's May Day parades, the flag-waving Red Army soldier that stood on Liberation Monument, Marx, Engels, Bela Kun and his cronies, were all torn down from their pedestals after 1991 and carted away to Statue Park, an outdoor museum 15 minutes away from Budapest's city center.

Although visitors may be tempted to snicker at the ignominy of these statues' fate, the park — unique in Eastern Europe — is not meant as a joke. Architect Akos Eleod designed it as a careful critique of the newly overthrown communist ideology, eschewing "tendentious, extreme or realistic methods of construction, as a number of people were expecting," which would lead him, he writes in the museum's brochure, "to do nothing more than construct my own antipropaganda park from these propagandist statues, following the same thought patterns and prescriptions of dictatorship that erected these statues in the first place."

Still, there's something terribly funny — and sadly terrible — about the open-air museum's haphazard display of silent, tarnished heroes.

Walking through the streets of Budapest today, it's hard to imagine that the city tore down its Iron Curtain just seven years ago. Hardly any physical vestige of the former regime remains. But then, since 1956, the Soviet grip on Hungary was not as tight as on the other countries of the Eastern Bloc. They didn't call it "goulash socialism" for nothing.

SPEAKING OF goulash, Hungary is not a place for vegetarians. Roast goose liver, wild boar with mustard, thick bean-and-ham stews, skewered venison with flaming sour-cherry sauce... you can get by these mouth-watering, cholesterol-ridden delicacies, but then, why not go to Leeds or Vilna for your vacation, instead of subjecting yourself to such culinary temptation? It's a shame to eat lettuce in Budapest.

One of the best places not to eat lettuce in Budapest is the elegant Alabardos restaurant, located in a restored medieval palace in the city's historic Buda Castle District. The waiters and wine stewards seem as excited about the food as the patrons, and their genial show-

manship only adds to the evening's enjoyment. The roast goose liver in wild berry sauce is exquisite, and helps mask the bite of the final bill, which should come to about \$75 per person. What happened to socialist prices?

To help work off that goose fat, spend a few hours in one of more than 1,000 medicinal hot springs scattered throughout the country. Hungary's hot springs were known 2,000 years ago in Roman times, when centurions would soak their aching shins in the military garrison of Aquincum, just outside Budapest.

During the Turkish occupation of the 16th and 17th centuries, many domed-roof spas were built to contain the country's curative thermal waters. The most famous of the capital's spas is probably the turn-of-the-century Gellert Baths, the oldest hotel spa, located in an Art Nouveau hotel at the foot of Gellert Hill.

The springs supplying the baths are so hot they were called Purgatory when first discovered 2,000 years ago. The name was later changed to "Bath of the Virgins," and something remains of that erotic suggestion today. Men and women bathe naked in separate hot-water pools, drifting lazily past intricate mosaics and rococo statues, or enjoying the even hotter gushes of water issuing from numerous animal-head fountains. The whole experience costs only \$4, and for an additional \$3 a bored young woman will hose off a plastic sheet and give you an old-fashioned, no-nonsense rubdown.

Unfortunately, we visitors were unable to book mud baths, herbal wraps, or any of a host of other treatments because we lacked, as a white-clad attendant briskly informed us, the all-important "doctor's description." Be sure to get one before you go, and bring your own soap.

TO EXPERIENCE the real Hungary, get out of Budapest and head for the countryside, where eight million of the country's 10 million citizens reside. One lovely side trip is to Eger, a medieval walled city of 60,000 residents in northeastern Hungary, a 90-minute drive from Budapest in a fertile valley between the Matra mountains and the Bükk Range.

Eger was settled more than 1,000 years ago, and monuments to every period it has passed through still stand. A breathtaking view of the city can be had from the hilltop Eger Castle, built in the mid-13th century by King Bela IV. Its ruins were built upon over the centuries, and include an extensive series of 16th-century

A tourist's goulash



Eger, Hungary: The city's walls were constructed by the same Italian engineers who built part of the walls of Jerusalem's Old City.

catcombs snaking for kilometers beneath the castle walls. Apparently these catcombs, which can be visited with a guide,

were built by a team of Italian engineers who later built part of the walls of Jerusalem's Old City. We couldn't confirm this, but it's a

good story anyway. During the siege of Eger in 1552, 2,000 Hungarian defenders held out against 80,000 Turkish

invaders in a heroic resistance effort spearheaded by the local women, who poured boiling tar on Turks attempting to scale the castle walls and taunted the enemy by raising their skirts at them in disdain. The story of this legendary siege is one of the first books read by Hungarian schoolchildren and is a much-beloved tale.

Visitors can pay their respects to the castle's defenders in a room dedicated to their memory. Also open to the public is a display of medieval instruments of torture, including graphic sketches of how they were used to extract confessions from their hapless victims. That room, thank goodness, was closed the day of our visit.

Eger has been an important Catholic center since the reign of Saint Stephen, Hungary's first Christian ruler who ascended the throne almost a millennium ago. The city has 16 Catholic churches, 12 of which functioned continuously during the communist regime.

Eger is also located in the heart of the Jewish area of northeastern Hungary, a region whose populous Hassidic communities were virtually wiped out during the Holocaust. The city's three historic synagogues are situated on the same central block, in various stages of ruin.

The oldest one has only a plaque to mark its memory. The city's first four-star hotel will open soon on the spot.

A second synagogue, dating back to the 18th century, is boarded up and protected behind a locked iron gate, waiting for a donor to restore it to its former splendor.

The third synagogue, a bright-yellow 18th-century building with white-framed windows, is now a furniture and textiles shop. The building was given over to the shop's owners eight years ago, when Hungary began its campaign of restoring property destroyed during World War II or that had fallen into disrepair under the communist regime. In return, the new owners pledged to restore the building completely, a pledge they have kept.

It's an odd feeling to walk around inside and see Turkish carpets for sale, hanging from the women's balcony. A couch is displayed on the former bimah. But at least the building hasn't been torn down, and visitors who come to photograph the former shul aren't shooed away by the shop clerks.

In addition to just walking around the picturesque winding streets of the old quarter of Eger, enjoying the many beautiful Baroque buildings, visitors will want to take a stroll to the "valley

of the beautiful women" on the city's outskirts. The "valley" is really a collection of some 250 private wine cellars dug into the side of a cliff, each operated by an individual family that makes its own wine for sale to the public.

We took a peek inside Farkas Ferenc's cellar, a hole-in-the-wall operation located at 3 Dismosor Street at the valley's entrance. Mr. Ferenc makes a mean *bukovir* (bull's blood), the heavy red wine for which Hungary is famed. For about two dollars, he'll siphon out a couple of liters for you to carry away in a plastic bottle, to be enjoyed later with a chunk of spicy Hungarian salami.

ON THE way back to Budapest, make a detour due north to the storybook village of Hollóko, an hour's drive from the capital in the Cserhat hills. Hollóko is a village of less than 500 residents that has maintained its old whitewashed, mud-walled homes and its folkloric traditions, native to the little-known Palóc people of northern Hungary. In 1987, Hollóko became the first Hungarian village to be added to UNESCO's world cultural heritage list.

The old quarter of Hollóko is just two streets long, including a tiny 15th-century wooden-spired church. The church, along with most of the homes, had to be almost completely rebuilt after a fire in 1909, but the rebuilding was carried out by the original families according to their original designs.

Today, an active, if small, cultural committee struggles to preserve the village's unique lifestyle. The famed a cappella Hollóko women's choir, which performs in its native dress for visitors and locals alike, can't persuade any young women to join its ranks. The population is shrinking, and no babies have been born for the past two years. The village is offering special tour programs that include instruction in weaving, pottery-making and honeycake-decorating, but whether that will be enough to save Hollóko from the wrecking ball remains to be seen.

Malev Hungarian Airlines flies to Budapest five times a week, and offers special deals during the low season and during Budapest's Spring Festival, held this year in March. The city will hold its annual international wine festival this September 2 to 7, and a host of other cultural activities throughout the year as Hungary prepares for its 1,000th birthday party celebration, set for the year 2000.

The writer was a guest of the Hungarian National Tourist Board and Malev Hungarian Airlines.

CAVEAT EMPTOR!

Credit slips where credit's due

By RUTHIE BLUM

Beware of losing credit slips; they may as well be cash.

Last August, S.Z. entered "Ofnat Canaan" on Kibbutz Tzora and purchased a suit for NIS 514. Upon arriving home, she discovered that the suit was defective.

Back she went to the kibbutz boutique to return the garment. After what she described as "much arguing" between her and the shop manager, an agreement was reached whereby instead of a refund, she would be given a credit slip ("zikui") for the cost of the suit which she had paid for by credit card.

Since that day, S.Z. has visited Ofnat Canaan many times to try and find something to buy with her credit slip. All to no avail. Thus far, she has not been able to find an article of clothing she likes.

One day, as she was about to make another trip to the kibbutz, she discovered that she had misplaced the credit slip. Nevertheless, she went to the boutique to explain her predicament.

There, she was informed in no uncertain terms that there was nothing that could be done about a lost credit slip. Without it, she was told, she would not be able to utilize her credit.

S.Z. was furious. After all, she argued, the purchase was made with a Visa card. As such, there must be a record of the sale. In fact, proof of her sale was located by the shop manager. However, no evidence of credit being given was listed. "Too bad, lady," was the response. "You're out of luck."

Since then, management of the shop has changed hands. Ofnat Canaan is now run by Gadi Gal. Gal was aware of the case of the missing credit slip. He apologized for any rudeness S.Z. might have encountered by the previous manager, and said that his whole philosophy is based on keeping customers happy. "A satisfied customer will come back and shop here," he said.

But then he explained why he cannot give S.Z. credit without the little piece of paper: There is no way to

check whether a credit slip has been utilized. "What if someone finds her lost slip, and comes in to take merchandise?" he asked rhetorically.

"Unlike with a check or a credit card, a credit slip has no identifying features. In this sense, it is just like cash," he stressed.

According to Gal, Ofnat Canaan does large volumes of business, particularly on Shabbat, when people from all over the country come to shop. Checks are not accepted, except from members of the "regular customers' club." "However," he added, "I do allow customers an unlimited period in which to exchange credit for merchandise, a fact which is obvious, in view of the amount of time which S.Z. has held her credit."

Hopefully, S.Z. will find her slip, and not be out five hundred shekels. If and when she does, I would advise her to find something to buy fast — before she ends up losing the slip again. The rest of us should take heed.

According to the Sales Law, S.Z. could have asked for a refund when the cause of her returning the garment was a defect in the merchandise. Her reason for not doing so was understandable: Due to the high cost of the garment, Ofnat Canaan would not have given her a cash refund on the spot. The money would have been sent at a later date, according to Gal, who claimed that only smaller amounts of cash can be returned on the spot.

Gal also explained that Ofnat Canaan does not manufacture the clothing it sells (with the exception of certain silk-screen printed T-shirts). And he claimed that at least twice a month, goods are returned or exchanged. As a result, he cannot keep track of every credit slip.

Another caveat we might learn from the unfortunate tale of S.Z., is to examine all items we buy very carefully. Had S.Z. done so at the time of her purchase, she probably would have discovered the defect before leaving the shop.

You are invited to offer personal stories about goods and services in this country. Write to: Ruthie Blum, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem.

FLAIR

Suit yourself

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

One of the reasons that American army personnel did so well in capturing the attention of British women during World War II was that they looked so good in their uniforms.

True, we're taught that clothes do not make the man. And who doesn't chuckle over that story of George Bernard Shaw, who came inappropriately attired to a formal affair. When it was pointed out to him, he went home and sent his butler back with the right suit and a scathing note implying that it was the suit and not its owner that had been invited. Nevertheless, the way we dress leaves an impression.

This may explain why Israeli men are increasingly discarding their over-casual attire in favor of suits. Let's face it, jeans and a sports shirt may look businesslike on a farm, but not in the city, where suits are the order of the day.

It doesn't have to be a traditional pin-striped suit. It needn't necessarily be dark. But it should be smart and neat.

There are no fixed rules about whether the pants should be cuffed or uncuffed, straight and narrow or slightly baggy. Nor does it matter whether jackets are single or double breasted, long or short sleeved, or an update of something worn by country squires a century ago. A suit is in the nature of a uniform and it makes most men look much better than they do in any other kind of garb.

The Hugo Boss collection covers the whole gamut of popular trends in suits, including shiny and light-colored fabrics, dark stripes and jackets that look almost Tyrolean.

Collars vary both in width and depth, as do lengths of jackets, to suit individual tastes and body shapes.

The longer jackets are definitely more flattering, especially on tall men. The short jackets seem disproportionate.

Boss's casual clothes also have a businesslike quality about them, almost advertising that this is what CEOs wear when they're not at the conference table.



From the Hugo Boss collection.

US Moslems look to no-interest Islamic institutions for loans

By DONNA ABU-NASR

Alaa Sallam's religion comes before business or luxury. A Moslem geological consultant, Sallam would have no car, house or professional equipment without Islamic financial institutions that provide him interest-free loans, as Islam demands.

"I didn't want to go to commercial banks and go through usury," said Sallam, 36, a naturalized American who emigrated from his native Egypt, 12 years ago.

Like Sallam, a growing number of devout Moslems in the US and Canada are turning for major purchases to financial institutions run according to *Sharia* — Islam's legal code spelled out in the Koran.

The bedrock of Islamic business transactions — banking, mortgages, loans — is the religion's ban on

Sallam's case explains how they work.

Sallam needed heavy equipment for his Houston company that provides oil-consulting services. To avoid paying interest on a loan, he went to a company called BMI Leasing, which bought the equipment for him. He put down half the cost of the machines, then "leased" them from the company.

His monthly payments consist of two parts: a machine rental fee, and a payment toward the principal BMI Leasing paid for the machines. He will pay no penalty if his checks are late, the element of risk BMI assumes in the transaction.

Sallam will own the machines after he finishes paying back the principal. The same rules apply to cars and houses.

Moslem investment houses operate as regular companies do,

The bedrock of Islamic business transactions is the religion's ban on interest payments.

interest payments, described in the Koran as usury.

The Koran requires Moslems to share the risk of an investment while sharing the profits from it, and prohibits contracts in which one party must repay a certain amount of money in a certain amount of time.

Starting Islamic financial businesses in North America has not been easy. Entrepreneurs say they faced the problem of reaching a widely dispersed Moslem population and finding money to finance transactions in a system driven by interest.

Some are trying to interest Islamic banks in the Middle East and Asia to invest in Islamic housing cooperatives in the US.

The financial institutions started small. In the early 1980s, most of the businesses were investment companies that bought stocks considered *halal*, or legal under the *Sharia*. Then came leasing companies and housing cooperatives.

except that executives closely examine each stock to ensure it is *halal*. Buying stocks is acceptable, because everyone shares in the risk.

Nicholas Kaiser, portfolio manager for Amara Mutual Funds, said only about 4,000 publicly traded US companies of almost 7,000 companies Amara studied passed initial religious screening.

Before Amara bought stocks, Moslem advisers looked for subsidiaries owned by those companies that deal in products or transactions considered *haram* — illegal under *Sharia*. They include banking, gambling, alcohol and pornography.

Kaiser said Amara, which has 3,000 shareholders, dumped one big automobile company because a subsidiary is a savings and loan. Another business, a large supermarket chain, was rejected because its beer and wine sales were 3.06 percent of the total revenues, a figure Amara considered substantial. (AP)

BUSINESS & FINANCE

BUSINESS

in brief

Shekel gains 1.24% against the dollar

The shekel yesterday appreciated against the dollar by another 1.24%, settling at NIS 3.505, and completing a 2.5% revaluation against the dollar so far this week. The Bank of Israel's basket of leading foreign currencies also depreciated against the shekel, losing 1.33% and settling at NIS 3.798. The currency basket has dropped more than 2.8% in the past three days. *Jennifer Friedlin*

Bill seeks expansion of Eisenberg Law

MK Haim Dayan (Tsomet) is attempting to introduce new legislation to give greater equality to companies, claiming the Eisenberg Law gave preferential treatment to the late Shaul Eisenberg. A legal opinion from the committee's lawyer Anna Schneider suggests that any attempt to abolish the law would probably be ruled as unlawful by the Supreme Court of Justice. Schneider believes it would contravene the Basic Law of Human Dignity and Freedom. Company vice-chairman Amos Mar Haim told the committee that abolishing the law, with its retroactive implications would be a breach of the government's commitment and send out negative signals to investors. *David Harris*

Jordan, US sign investment pact

Jordan and the US signed an agreement yesterday to encourage two-way investment. A US Embassy statement said the agreement "provides guarantees to investors from the United States and Jordan, and should deepen and strengthen the economic ties between the two countries." The deal calls for the free flow of capital. It bans government confiscation of property, guarantees international arbitration for disputes and promises indemnity for damages caused by civil strife or other emergencies. *AP*

Saudi prince heads \$65m. project in Egypt

Prince Al-Waleed bin Talal, who is a nephew of Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, and a group of Egyptian companies have agreed to build a \$65 million tourist complex in Egypt, *As-Sabah* Al-Awsat reported yesterday. The complex is to be built near the Red Sea resort town of Sharm el-Sheik, it said. The Saudi-owned daily said the investment deal was signed Tuesday. The project includes a five-star hotel, 34 luxury villas, 112 cabanas, a pool, a marina and other sports facilities. The project is the third Al-Waleed has backed in Egypt. *AP*

KLM: Northwest-stake sale an option

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines said yesterday the sale of its shares in Northwest Airlines was one of the options open to it in resolving the partners' long-running dispute over KLM's Northwest holding. "One of the options is a possible sale of shares to Northwest," KLM spokesman Peter Wellbuer said. But Wellbuer declined to comment on the likelihood of a Northwest sale going ahead, saying only "It is an option...how important (an option) it is, we will not comment." He said talks at management level to resolve the dispute over KLM's 19 percent Northwest stake were continuing, and KLM would not comment on their progress. *Reuters*

Kohl aides: France deficit problematic

Wolfgang Schauble, a senior aide to German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, said yesterday it could pose a problem for economic and monetary union if France's budget deficit was 3.6 percent of gross domestic product in 1997. Schauble added that Germany's budget deficit this year could exceed public investment, which is not allowed by the constitution. *Reuters*

The Port of Hadera - the Port of Energy Tender for the Sale of TWO TUGBOATS at the Port of Hadera Hadera Port Tender No. 1/97

- The Ministry of Transport, the Port of Hadera, invites bids for the purchase of two tugboats, moored at the Port of Hadera.
- The tugboats are offered, in their present condition. An administrative specification regarding the terms of the sale, a technical specification of the tugboats, and the terms of the contract the purchaser will be required to sign are available from July 3, 1997, at the offices of the Shipping and Port Administration, 102 Haatzma'ut St., 2nd Floor (operator's room) Sunday to Thursday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- The tender documents are available, against payment of NIS3,500, non-refundable. Payment should be made through the Postal Bank.
- The tugboats may be inspected, during a meeting which will take place at the Port of Hadera on Tuesday, July 22, 1997, at 9 a.m., when questions may be asked.
- Offers may be submitted for the purchase of one or two tugboats, in accordance with the terms specified in the administrative specification.
- Bids should be placed in the tenders box at Hadera Port in five copies, in closed double envelopes, by 12 noon on August 14, 1997. The tenders box is available between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. The envelope containing the bid should be marked "Tugboat Tender, Hadera Port, No. 1/97 (Purchase)."
- Offers may be submitted in English or Hebrew. Text in Hebrew is binding.
- The tender is also open to overseas bodies and companies.
- The following must be attached to bids:
 - A bank guarantee issued by an Israeli bank or a bank in Israel, for 10% of the bid total (VAT not included) valid for 90 days from the date given in Para. 6 above.
 - Confirmation that the bidder has been certified as an authorized trader, by the VAT authorities.
 - Confirmation that the bidder keeps accounting books, in accordance with the requirements of the income tax commission.
 - The bid price (exclusive of VAT) and the VAT must be stated separately in bids.
 - A document giving the names of persons, authorized to sign documents on behalf of the bidder.
- * Paras. 9.2 and 9.3 should be ignored by overseas bidders.
- No undertaking is given to accept the highest or any bid.

Arieh Rona
Director of the Shipping and Port Administration
Chairman of the Tender Committee

Hapoalim rejects Shamrock demand for Koor break-up

By ORNA RAVIV

Bank Hapoalim recently told Shamrock President Stanley Gold that it would not accept Shamrock's demand that Koor undergo a spin-off process, sources close to the talks said. Hapoalim, Israel's largest bank, is also the largest local share-holder in Koor, which is Israel's largest holding company.

The bank's deputy managing director Yossi Dauber recently met with Gold in London and told him the bank would not execute the demand. Hapoalim decided not to accept Gold's request due to the fact that the government is scheduled to sell the bank in the middle of August. The bank was advised by its legal adviser not to make any significant change in its assets during the sale process. Speculation is increasing that

the Shamrock group will, in the end, decide to sell its share in Koor. Gold has denied these assessments. Sources said that Shamrock's losses in its other major holdings will force the board of directors to unload its stake in Koor. Shamrock is the main shareholder in US supermarket chain Grand Union, which reported a \$183 million loss for the 12-month period ending in March 1997. Another

major investment, LA Gear, recorded a \$62m. loss last year. Shamrock hoped that a Koor spin-off could help create profits on the investment by selling off individual units. Now that the break-up option has been rejected, other possibilities will be examined. Shamrock might wait for the Bank Hapoalim sale to take place, in hopes of reviving discussions over Koor's future with the bank's new owners. *Globes*

State revenues short of target in first half

By DAVID HARRIS

Internal revenues for the first half of 1997 have fallen short of the government's preliminary targets, even though they are up on the same period last year, a Treasury official yesterday confirmed.

The official would not disclose the extent of the shortfall. The shortfall in revenues can be explained by seasonal factors, said the official, who urged that people wait until the end of the year before passing judgement on the tax-collecting performance.

In all, state revenues totaled NIS 52.9 billion in the first six months, a 4.5 percent increase in real terms on the comparable figure last year, the Finance Ministry announced yesterday.

However, over the first six months there was a 5% decline in taxes paid on imports.

The Income Tax and Property Tax department registered an overall 7% real-terms increase in revenues in the first half, collecting NIS 29.2b. In income-tax payments there was a 11% increase.

Property tax levies dropped a sharp 30% because of the slowdown in the real estate and construction industries, according to the Treasury.

There was a 1% real-terms rise in half-yearly income in the Customs and VAT department, with revenues totaling NIS 22.5b. Receipts from imports were down 5%, reflecting the fall in purchase of foreign-produced durable goods.

Non-VAT taxes collected locally rose some 10%, particularly as a result of tax rises on fuel and cigarettes.

Other government fees, which comprise the remainder of the overall state income, showed a 13% rise on the January to June 1996 figure.

The shortfall in revenues has in part contributed to the semi-annual budget deficit of NIS 2.653b, as announced by the Treasury on Tuesday.

With the news of an NIS 2.937 billion budget deficit in June, the Bank of Israel yesterday urged the government to make sure it remains within its own deficit target of 2.8 percent of the gross domestic product.

In a statement, the central bank said the June budget deficit figures emphasize the importance of reducing government expenditure. This is a clear warning to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the incoming finance minister to implement an immediate budget cut.

Netanyahu and former finance minister Dan Meridor agreed to an NIS 600m. budget cut in order to remain within the 2.8% target.

The Bank of Israel is of the opinion that the cut could have to be as high as NIS 1.5b. to NIS 2b., according to its head of research Leo Leiderman.

The Treasury also announced details of imports of durable goods during the first six months (the percentage increases and decreases are in comparison to the equivalent period in 1996):

- Vehicles (-2%). However, there was a 20% increase in the June figure with 12,675 imported vehicles
- Televisions and radios (-37%)
- Videos (-6%)
- Washing machines (+4%)
- Dishwashers (+3%)



Thailand seeks IMF help

A foreign exchange official counts money for his customer at an exchange booth in Bangkok yesterday. Thailand has sought technical assistance from the International Monetary Fund and the Reserve Bank of Australia after floating its baht currency. Bank of Thailand Governor Rerngchai Marakanond said yesterday. *(Reuters)*

Cable & Wireless win PA telecom contract

By Jerusalem Post Staff

British-based Cable & Wireless has won the contract to provide management support and help develop the telecommunications sector in the Palestinian Authority areas.

The tender was advertised by the Palestine Telecommunications Company (PALTEL).

The contract is worth an unconfirmed \$1-2 million and will last two years, although Cable & Wireless spokeswoman Jennifer Weller, confirmed that they hope this is the start of a long-term relationship between the two companies.

A management team from Cable & Wireless will assist PALTEL in their plans to develop an independent and fully integrated telecommunications network to provide both national and international services to the two million people of the West Bank and Gaza.

PALTEL aims to have 250,000 customers within three years. They have agreed to extend the number of land-based lines, supply data and satellite communications, as well as Internet facilities and public payphones. They are also working towards the establishment of the area's first cellular phone network.

Privatization of the telecommunications sector earlier this year as part of

PA Chairman Yasser Arafat's national policy for the development of infrastructure, has left PALTEL the sole supplier of telecommunications services in the PA areas. Arafat and his economic advisor Mohammed Rachid have spoken recently of the importance of telecommunications to economic development and support the development of this sector through the Palestine Telecommunications Unit.

"We are looking forward to working with Cable & Wireless and to drawing on their vast experience of operating telecommunications services around the world," the chairman of PALTEL said.

Cable & Wireless latest investment in the West Bank and Gaza follows involvement in the telecommunications of Bahrain, the Republic of Yemen, Lebanon as well as its 10% share in Bezeq. "We see this [contract] as recognition of our long-term commitment to the development of telecommunications in Palestine and the region," said C&W Chief Executive Richard Brown. "We look forward to a fruitful association with PALTEL which will be of benefit to our customers and shareholders alike."

Africa Israel to invest \$27m. in Nazareth mall

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

The investors expect the mall to open by the start of the year 2000 festivities.

In November, diamond merchant Lev Leviev bought a major stake in Africa Israel from Bank Leumi. Since the purchase, Leviev announced the establishment of three new corporate divisions: Africa Israel Real Estate Holdings, Africa Israel International, and Africa Israel Revenue Producing Properties.

Africa Israel previously consisted of three subsidiaries - Africa Israel Industry and Trade, Africa Israel Hotels, and Danya Cebus.

The mall, which will be the first one located in an Arab area, will consist of office space, shops and a movie theater, a spokesperson for Africa Israel said.

Despite Nazareth's ailing economy and fears that the Nazareth 2000 project is stumbling under political uncertainties, Africa Israel said the project is worthwhile as it will meet the needs of the city.

"Africa Israel checked all the parameters and came to the conclusion that this is a solid business investment," said the spokesperson.

The mall will consist of 18,000 sq.m. over two floors and 12,000 sq.m. that will be contained in two towers.

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ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS				
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Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.275	
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.250	
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.825	1.825	2.125	
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.625	0.750	1.000	
Yen (¥ 10 million yen)	—	—	—	
(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)				
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (2.7.97)				
CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep.
Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
Currency basket	3.7603	3.8210	—	3.7000
U.S. dollar	3.4670	3.5220	3.40	3.5050
German mark	1.8953	2.0174	1.85	2.0030
Pound sterling	5.7528	5.8457	5.65	5.8080
French franc	0.5580	0.5684	0.57	0.5940
Japanese yen (100)	3.0324	3.0614	2.96	3.0625
Dutch florin	1.7640	1.7925	1.73	1.7785
Swiss franc	2.3558	2.4038	2.32	2.3861
Swedish krona	0.4478	0.4548	0.43	0.4514
Norwegian krone	0.4743	0.4820	0.46	0.4782
Denish krone	0.5215	0.5300	0.51	0.54
Finnish mark	0.5553	0.5771	0.55	0.58
Canadian dollar	2.5103	2.5508	2.48	2.5378
Australian dollar	2.6154	2.6578	2.57	2.6418
S. African rand	0.4743	0.4820	0.46	0.4782
Belgian franc (10)	0.9822	0.9778	0.98	0.7738
Austrian schilling (10)	2.8212	2.8688	2.77	2.91
Italian lira (1000)	2.0385	2.0714	2.00	2.0570
Jordanian dinar	4.8901	4.9950	4.83	4.9948
Egyptian pound	0.8900	1.0700	0.86	1.07
ECU	3.8009	3.9639	—	3.9335
Irish punt	5.2448	5.3282	5.15	5.41
Spanish peseta (100)	3.3501	3.3881	2.30	2.37

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

Table with 2 columns: Share Name, Last Price. Includes Amex and Nasdaq sections.

Table with 3 columns: Share Name, Last Price, Change. Includes various Israeli tech and industrial shares.

Table with 3 columns: Share Name, Last Price, Change. Includes US tech and industrial shares.

Table with 3 columns: Share Name, Last Price, Change. Includes NYSE and NASDAQ sections.

TASE ROUNDOFF

Shares up on optimism about inflation

Mishtanim 294.50 ▲ 1.44% Maof 302.25 ▲ 1.18%

By ROBERT DANIEL and JOSHUA MITNICK

Tel Aviv stock indexes rose back toward their records yesterday, as investors were optimistic that the strengthening of the shekel would ease concern about resurgent inflation and higher interest rates.

Rising shares included the country's top two banks, Bank Hapoalim and Bank Leumi, developers Industrial Buildings Corp. and Properties and Building Corp., as well as Koor Industries Ltd.

Key Representative Rates

US DollarNIS 3.5050 -1.24%

StartingNIS 5.0900 -1.08%

MarkNIS 2.0030 -1.56%

back to normal," said Shachar Gazi, analyst at Ilanot Baucha securities firm in Tel Aviv.

The Maof Index of 25 most-traded issues advanced 1.18 percent to 302.25. The Mishtanim Index of 100 issues gained 1.44 percent to 294.50.

Both indexes were close to the records set on June 18 and June 22 respectively.

The shekel strengthened to 3.505 to the U.S. dollar from 3.549 yesterday.

"Now that the shekel is getting back to normal, the market is getting

back to normal," said Shachar Gazi, analyst at Ilanot Baucha securities firm in Tel Aviv.

Yesterday's government report on the budget deficit, showing a gap of 4.78 billion shekels, was "fully expected," he said.

"Fears that interest rates will rise have dissipated," said Avi Meir, analyst at Israel General Bank.

Bank Leumi was the most-active issue, rising 0.25 percent to 5.5 shekels on 13.4 million shekels of shares traded.

Bank Hapoalim added 1 percent at 7.67.

Across the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, 159 million shekels of shares traded, 26 percent below last month's daily average of 214.5 million. More than four times as many issues rose as fell.

MISHTANIM LEADING STOCKS

Table with 2 columns: Share Name, Last Price. Includes various Israeli tech and industrial shares.

Table with 3 columns: Share Name, Last Price, Change. Includes various Israeli tech and industrial shares.

Table with 3 columns: Share Name, Last Price, Change. Includes various Israeli tech and industrial shares.

Table with 3 columns: Share Name, Last Price, Change. Includes various Israeli tech and industrial shares.

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

Table with 2 columns: Share Name, Last Price. Includes various international shares.

Table with 3 columns: Share Name, Last Price, Change. Includes various international shares.

Table with 3 columns: Share Name, Last Price, Change. Includes various international shares.

Table with 3 columns: Share Name, Last Price, Change. Includes various international shares.

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

Table with 3 columns: Index Name, Last Price, Change. Includes DJ Industrials, DJ Transport, etc.

OTHER MARKET INDEXES

Table with 3 columns: Index Name, Last Price, Change. Includes FTSE 100, Nikkei, etc.

DOLLAR CROSSEXTS (US)

Table with 3 columns: Currency, Last Price, Change. Includes Pound, Swiss Franc, etc.

US COMMODITIES

Table with 3 columns: Commodity Name, Last Price, Change. Includes Oil, Gold, etc.

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

Table with 3 columns: Metal Name, Last Price, Change. Includes Silver, Copper, etc.

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

Table with 3 columns: Metal Name, Last Price, Change. Includes Silver, Copper, etc.

LONDON METAL FIXES

Table with 3 columns: Metal Name, Last Price, Change. Includes Silver, Copper, etc.

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WORLD MARKET ROUNDOFF

Euro bourses mixed

LONDON (Reuters) — Key European bourses put on a mixed performance yesterday, failing to hold early record or near-record levels, but reviving by the close.

Paris stocks reversed by more than 2 percent from early all-time peaks to close more than 1 percent lower amid concern over company taxes. Frankfurt scored a record close, but this was below early intraday peaks.

The London stock market, Europe's biggest, ended a roller-coaster day with healthy gains, reassured by details of the new British Labor government's first budget after it takes office.

Finance minister Gordon Brown was still speaking as business closed but investors welcomed a surprise two percentage point cut in corporation tax and forecasts of low inflation and falling borrowing.

On the currency market, the dollar regained some strength after being hit by a rush into the yen following reports of the flotation of the Thai baht. It also advanced to a new 40-month high against the weak mark.

"Breaking 1.75 marks was a tough nut to crack. We are above that level now and it should provide support," said a senior trader at a British investment bank.

The British pound also moved above 2.91 marks for the first time in five years on market expectations that fiscal tightening would not prevent higher interest rates. It ended around 2.91 versus 2.8880 at the previous close.

Speculative selling, meanwhile, sent gold to its lowest level since March 1993.

New records early in the day on the Frankfurt, Paris and Milan bourses, adding to a strong advance the previous day, were prompted by gains on Wall Street on Tuesday and strength in the dollar, good news for exporters.

But on Wednesday the Dow Jones industrial average of US blue chips had lost around a quarter of a percentage point by the close of European trading.

WHERE TO GO

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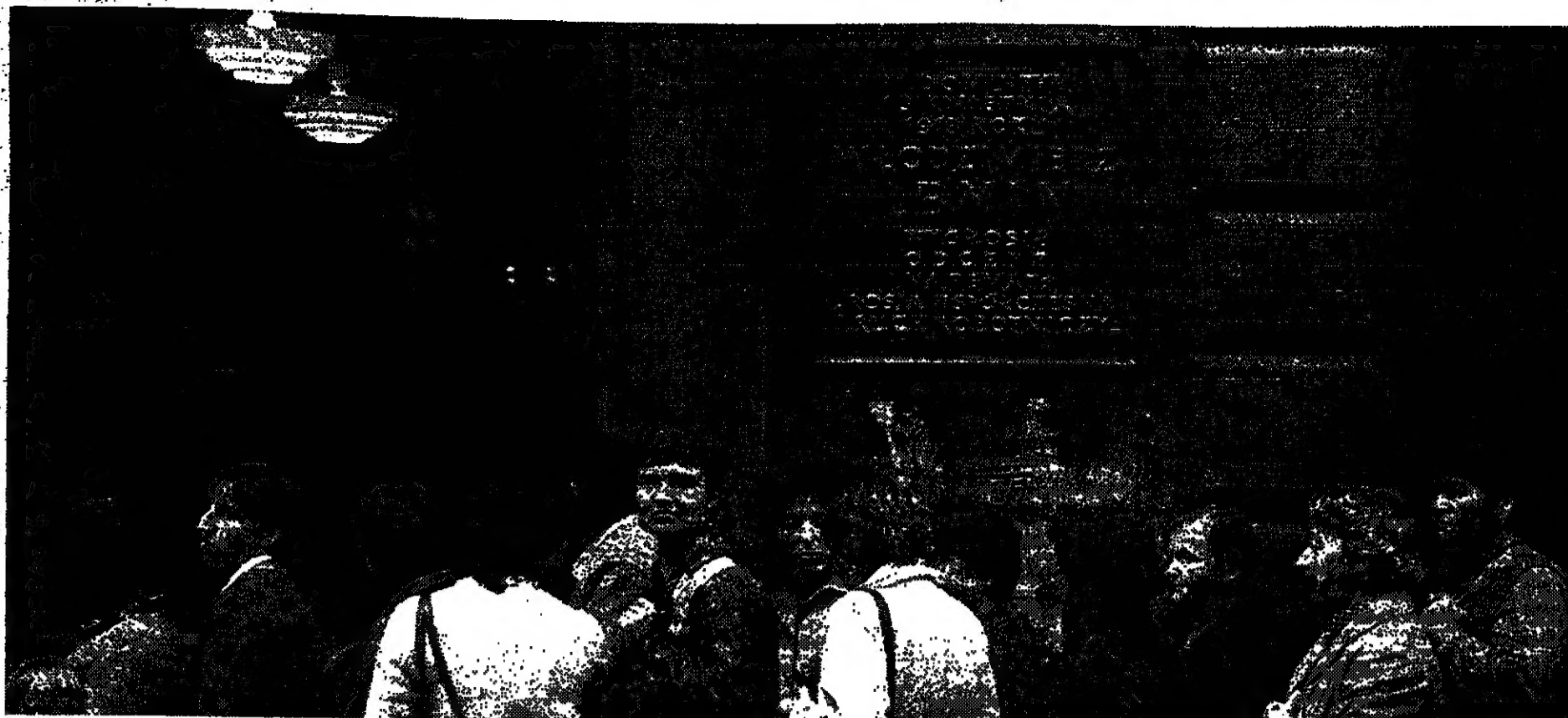
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FIRST AID

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The limits of success

Experts are calling for austerity measures to curb Poland's ballooning trade deficit



Things have changed since Poles stood on lines for meat, such as this one in Cracow in 1991; now their economy is in fact overheating. (E.D. Smith)

WARSAW (Reuters) — Poland's left-wing government, faced with an uphill battle to stay in power in September elections, is fending off mounting calls for austerity to avoid turning an economic success story into a disaster.

The government, usually proud of its impressive economic record, found itself on the defensive this week when the central bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said separately that only a balanced budget would save Poland from a Czech-style currency crisis.

At the heart of the debate is the ballooning trade deficit, caused by a steep increase in imports, that for many economists and investors means a threat of eventual devaluation and economic slowdown.

The dispute put a strain on the Polish currency, the zloty, which fell half a percentage point on Thursday. Share prices also eased as some foreign investors reacted nervously to the dispute.

Poland's fundamentals remain encouraging, but are in the shadow of recent events in the Czech Republic, where a runaway trade gap provoked a speculative attack on the crown and contributed to a considerable economic slowdown.

Analysts have forecast Poland's current account deficit to widen to some \$6 billion this year from \$1.4b. in 1996 and the trade gap to soar to \$12b., or five percent of GDP, from \$8.2b. last year.

In the first four months of 1997, Poland's C/A deficit amounted to \$2.5b. and the trade gap to \$4b. The forecast for next year is more dismal, with some seeing the trade gap hitting \$16b., or 8% of GDP.

The government agrees with analysts that domestic demand and consumption must be curbed to cool down the deficit. But Finance Minister Marek Belka rebuffed calls for a balanced budget immediately.

He said planned reduction in the deficit next year and high real interest rates should

sufficiently cool demand.

"We know we have to cool internal demand and that restrictive monetary and budget policies are needed...but I think that (what we propose) will be sufficient," Belka told a news conference on Wednesday.

The government has indicated next year's budget deficit would fall to two or less percent of GDP from this year's planned 2.8% shortfall. But the IMF, which does not lend to Poland at the moment but keeps monitoring the economy, is not satisfied.

"We advise the government to do everything possible to limit the deficit already in 1997 and reduce it even further next year, so that producing a balanced budget is possible in 1999 at the latest," IMF representative Markus Rodlauer said in a newspaper comment.

Analysts said the budget deficit could be slashed in 1998 if Poland cut subsidies to ailing sectors such as mining or agriculture or ended costly indexation of wages.

"They doubted, however, that government would risk announcing unpopular spending cuts as it gears up its election campaign to fight off a challenge from right-wing parties grouped around Solidarity.

Apparently ducking the issue, the government announced that the final budget draft would be presented in October — after the elections — leaving a potential time bomb to whoever wins.

"At levels now proposed by the government, it's going to be tough and go, but the outcome of next year's budget is as uncertain as the outcome of the elections," said Robert Beange, economist at Lehman Brothers in London.

He said there was some hope that after the elections, any government with a fresh mandate would be able to tighten up considerably, seeing the dangers of failing to react.

"With the Czech crisis in such recent memory, I can see that after elections are out of the way, the budget could tighten a little more than they are talking about at the moment...if a reasonable, solid government forms."

Finance Minister Belka, a non-party economist allied to President Aleksander Kwasniewski, says critics should have some patience to allow the current monetary environment to work.

"You should have some faith in our monetary policy and some patience," Belka told investors in New York this week.

The National Bank of Poland, the central bank, twice increased obligatory reserves this year while keeping nominal interest rates flat amid falling inflation.

Poland's official rates, at 25% and 22% for the lombard and discount rate respectively, have remained fixed since last July, while inflation has slipped some six points to year-on-year 14.6% in May this year.

Analysts believe monetary policy was restrictive enough and that further tightening would be counterproductive. Raising costs of borrowing would be costly to the budget, stifle investment and attract hot foreign capital whose swings are indirectly to blame for the Czech crown's downfall.

"An interest rise is the last thing Poland needs," said Krzysztof Rybinski, head analyst at ING Bank in Warsaw.

This widely held view was not shared by the IMF, which said Poland should quickly tighten its monetary policy in order to avert ever-larger domestic demand.

Analysts also agree with financial author-

ities that a weakening of the zloty, a cure advocated by some politicians' and exporters' lobbies, should be avoided.

Belka said the current 1% per month crawling devaluation of the zloty offered exporters sufficient help and any deeper cut would offer only temporary relief. It would fail to address the core problem of containing booming domestic demand and have inflationary effects.

The consumer and investment boom in Poland comes in the wake of more than four years of fast economic growth, and domestic demand is a strong factor propelling the economy. The first quarter GDP rose 7.3%.

Investment is growing at about 20%, which is a positive factor as the economy rapidly modernizes and boosts capacity and efficiency.

Falling unemployment also contributes to higher consumer confidence, boosting consumer demand and the feel-good factor that the left is counting on to help it win the vote.

Belka and some analysts say robust direct foreign investment would protect Poland from currency crisis by boosting hard currency reserves, and gradually produce a boom in exports.

"As long as the (trade) gap is filled with foreign investments in productive assets, there is no danger," Belka said.

"The difference between Poland and the Czech Republic is that our deficit is almost entirely financed by foreign direct investments, short-term capital only counting for a few percent, while in the Czech Republic the proportion was different," he added.

Foreign direct investment rose \$5.19b. in 1996, pushing the amount attracted by Poland since 1990 to more than \$12b. The government's Foreign Investment Agency (PAIZ) says the investment should reach \$30b. by the year 2000.

WORLD BEAT



WITH WOJCIECH MOSKWA

SMART SHOPPING

By RACHEL WEINMAN

The school bell has barely finished ringing, but stores are already stocking up for the return next September. Israeli kids have become more fashion conscious in their choice of notebooks and school bags, realizing that such supplies send out clear messages to their peer groups. Accordingly, there is no shortage of outlets or marketers of school supplies.

In Israel today there are 2,200 stores — including major chains such as Kravitz, Graffiti and Arta — in which over 50 percent of inventory is stationery supplies. The 1996 turnover for stationery goods retail sales was NIS 1.9 billion.

According to the spokeswoman for the 9th annual Back to School '97 exhibition, which took place June 24-26 at the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds, the sector has become increasingly competitive, and aggressive promotional campaigns have become the outstanding characteristic for market players. For instance, individual store owners make special efforts to reach customers directly, even going so far as to approach schools, put leaflets in neighborhood mailboxes, lower overheads and narrow profit margins. There are also more discounts and sales.

An increase in the volume of imports accounts for additional changes in the marketplace. Over 80% of stationery products in

Israel are imported. In recent years there has been a rise in low-to mid-quality imports from China, with higher-quality goods imported from the US and Europe.

Most locally manufactured stationery products are made from paper and cardboard, and there too, the change is marked. Companies such as 60-year-old veteran Dafnon, whose brown-backed notebooks were once standard issue, now offer multicolored design series, several times a year. Palphot has licensed the characters from Disney's new feature film Hercules, who will appear on everything from tiny stickers to large loose-leaf binders. Hercules follows hard on the heels of the winter hit 101 Dalmatians, also licensed by Palphot.

But importers are starting to infiltrate into local notebook territory. The Eli Bar company has Basseti Italian-imported notebooks, especially adapted to Israeli needs. They open from right to left. Made from Indian paper, the notebooks are competitively priced at NIS 3-NIS 4.

The country's main stage for announcing and displaying what's going to be hot during the coming year is the Back to School '97 exhibit, where 60 manufacturers and importers were on hand this year to present their wares to office equipment and stationery stores, schools, institutions, busi-

nesses and organizations.

Flic by Mapal, makers of polypropylene-backed stationery goods, issued their 1997 catalog in time for the show, presenting 50 new products. The company says it has invested \$3m. in upgrading its production line in preparation for the coming year. Flic Marketing Manager Menachem Zilka says he expects to sell 1.5 million items even before school starts in September — "and hundreds of thousands more in the autonomous areas."

One technological innovation

priced at NIS 549, was developed for non-native English speakers by Wizcom of the Lipman Electronics group and is available in Hebrew-English, French-English, German-English, Dutch-English, Japanese-English, Spanish-English and Italian-English. The first commercial shipment of Quicktionary was sent out a week before the show to French office-equipment chain Fnac, where it was reportedly snapped up by customers. The manufacturer hopes the product will create a mini-revolution among students and businesspeople alike.

My Point

By AVRAHAM TOL

Inflation vs. unemployment

Many people believe that the only way to curb inflation is to raise interest rates. But this is not necessarily true. Inflation is a complex phenomenon that can be caused by many factors, including excessive money printing, high demand, and cost-push factors. Raising interest rates can help to reduce demand, but it can also lead to higher unemployment. Therefore, a balanced approach is needed to manage inflation without causing significant economic hardship.

only from fear of inflation. In fact, inflation is a complex phenomenon that can be caused by many factors, including excessive money printing, high demand, and cost-push factors. Raising interest rates can help to reduce demand, but it can also lead to higher unemployment. Therefore, a balanced approach is needed to manage inflation without causing significant economic hardship.

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Bank of England has been influenced by the government's fiscal policy. The MPC has been faced with the dilemma of how to control inflation while also supporting economic growth. The MPC has decided to raise interest rates to curb inflation, but this has led to higher unemployment.

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Road Safety Hint

When approaching a blind corner
SLOW DOWN!
It could save your life!

Sampras, Hingis hitch ride on British wave

LONDON (Reuters) - Top seeds Pete Sampras and Martina Hingis cleared the last remaining barriers yesterday to two huge Wimbledon confrontations capable of rising above the tide of 'Brit-mania' poised to engulf the All England Club.

Sampras's 6-4, 6-3, 6-7, 6-7, 6-4 win over the Czech Republic's Petr Korda ensured a last eight showdown with former champion Boris Becker which everyone, save the American, has been praying for since the draw was announced.

Hingis, meanwhile, trounced Denisa Chladkova of the Czech Republic 6-3, 6-2 to set up a women's semifinal against fellow 16-year-old Anna Kournikova which is certain to produce the youngest Wimbledon finalist in the Open era.

How long even these contests divert British attention from the possibility of two representatives in the men's semifinals is still debatable, with the swell of patriotic fervor around Wimbledon at record levels after Tim Henman's impressive four-set dismissal of defending champion Richard Krajicek.

But Sampras and Becker, who share six Wimbledon titles between them, remain the powerhouses in the draw and the American world No. 1 remains the 11-10 favorite to collect a fourth crown in five years.

Even so, Korda created some ripples of alarm by surviving two match points to fight back from two sets down and had Sampras not conceded just two points on his own serve in the final set, the result might have been different.

"I could have made it a lot easier on myself. It just goes to show that if you get a little careless, all of a sudden he's back in the match," commented Sampras.

"It doesn't get easier. Boris and I have had some unbelievable match-



WIMBLEDON VICTORS - Tim Henman ousted defending champion Richard Krajicek and Anna Kournikova trampled over Iva Majoli yesterday.

es over the years and hopefully we can play some great tennis tomorrow." "I'm going to walk into it like a final. There is a presence that not too many players have," the American added.

If Kournikova can reproduce some of the powerful ground strokes which took her past French Open champion Iva Majoli 7-6, 6-4, her contest with Hingis will be a much better spectacle than the one-sided contest between the pair at this

year's Roland Garros. Hingis has been suffering from a cold but will still be favored to reach her third successive grand slam final. If she does, her opponent will be either Jana Novotna, a straight sets winner over Indonesia's Yayuk Basuki, or Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, who survived a second set wobble to beat France's Nathalie Tauziat 6-2, 7-5.

The home crowds, though, are bracing themselves for a potential

'Battle of Britain' between Henman and Greg Rusedski who have given the host nation its best chance to celebrate a Wimbledon men's championship for decades.

Henman needed just 36 minutes to wrap up a superb 7-6, 6-7, 7-6, 6-4 victory over Krajicek, ensuring two British representatives in the last eight for the first time since 1961.

Another ex-champion, Germany's Michael Stich, now stands between Henman and a first appearance in a

Wimbledon semifinal, but the style and confidence which oozed from the 22-year-old suggested anything is now possible.

"I feel very confident," said Henman. "Those three sets last night were the best I've played since I came back in May from my elbow operation."

"To beat the Wimbledon champion I think you've got to be playing pretty well and that's exactly what I've done."



(Reuters)

There is now a distinct possibility of him facing Canadian-born compatriot Rusedski, who meets France's Cedric Pioline in the last eight. At stake is the honor of becoming Britain's first men's champion since Fred Perry in 1936, but Krajicek is among those yet to be consumed with excitement.

"The one thing I do know is that I'm not going to name my kid Tim," the Dutchman confessed. "I hate that name."

Boxers, briefs, bare bottoms star at Wimbledon

LONDON (Reuters) - Half a century after Gorgeous Gussie's knickers sent shock waves through Wimbledon, bottoms are once again the talk of the world's top tennis tournament.

And they all belong to women. In a frenzy of new-found interest that has little to do with the women's game, tennis pundits and photographers are poring over female players with a prurience astonishing by even British tabloid newspaper standards.

American "Gorgeous" Gussie Moran caused a sensation at the 1949 Wimbledon championships when she played with lace-trimmed pants peeping out from beneath her dress.

But this was Victorian modesty compared to the sight of 1997. There's a pouting Russian teenager they call Lolita, a leotard-clad French-Canadian dubbed The Body and The Belarus Beauty, to name but a few.

"Tennis knickers promise to be the smash hit of Wimbledon," according to the Express, while the Daily Mail asked: "This year, will all the talk be about sex and the singles girls?" The "girls" have seen photographs of their bottoms lined up and judged by the press - high scores aside from the odd wobbly midriff and cellulite-dappled thigh - while the men, true to form, have been allowed to get on with their game.

The tabloids say it's all good, clean-ish fun but many fans are incensed when the female grass

game often provides far better rallies than the service-dominated game of today's top men. "It is appalling the way so much of women's tennis is treated like soft porn," said Sports Minister Tony Banks.

Banks, no prude, decried the coverage as "sexist" and urged the media to "concentrate more on women's tennis abilities rather than their underwear and figures." Yet when Anna Kournikova took to the court on Wednesday, attention focused on her black gym knickers and they way she popped balls in and out of the elastic with all the innocence of a 16-year-old dubbed Lolita.

"Kournikova's physical loveliness far transcends mere prettiness," said the Evening Standard newspaper alongside a color picture of the blonde, leggy star shot - once again - from down low and behind.

"She makes a good action shot. She makes a good still. Basically anything she does makes a good picture because she's so attractive. There are an awful lot of tabloid guys around," said one court-side photographer.

"Little Miss Glamour" with her pert backside has been the pin-up of the tournament, though Olga Barabanschikova has garnered attention with her pierced navel, skimpy outfits and "legs as long as her surname."

She's also very good at tennis. But for many

commentators, Wimbledon is more catwalk than Grand Slam.

Take coverage of the number one seed, Martina Hingis, who caused a sensation when photographs appeared to show the teenage star playing without knickers and with cellulite wobbling on her super-fit thighs.

"Hingis, it has to be said, has heavy thighs for a 16-year-old," said the Express as it pondered her figure.

Hingis switched from briefs to long knickers, even as she insisted: "I don't read all that stuff about my weight."

Monica Seles had little choice as she faced endless post-game questions about her weight gain and cruel comparisons to "a hag with a frying pan." As Seles failed to find form, commentators said she was guzzling "comfort food" to mask personal problems and that she resembled a "Jimmy Connors in drag" with her grunting pugilism and lack of female grace.

"This is not a story about buttocks, really, or the curve of a thigh or the flip of a tennis skirt," said the liberal Guardian newspaper.

"It is a story about power, about an attempt to diminish the power of women who can hit a ball hard enough to knock a male commentator's head off. Of course young, fit women are sexy. But what they are doing in front of you is playing tennis, gentlemen, not lap-dancing."

Australians pick Gillespie for third Test

MANCHESTER (Reuters) - Australia have followed New South Wales pace bowler Jason Gillespie to the Ashes, picking him for the third Test against England starting on Monday at Old Trafford.

Gillespie missed the second Test at Lord's after suffering a hamstring injury in the first match of the series. He was replaced by Edgbaston but he now replaces Mike Kasprowicz.

England's captain Michael Atherton regards it as a pivotal match. "We're halfway through the series and if we win and go two up that puts us in a very strong position," he said.

Atherton believes that his team can contribute further to an unexpectedly good sporting year for England. "A good showing in tennis at Wimbledon, the European Cup athletics and soccer's Tournoi

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Forgiving Holyfield says boxing will benefit in long run

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield was in a forgiving mood on Tuesday and said Mike Tyson's vicious biting of his ears in their title fight could be good for boxing in the long run, if the punishment sends the right message.

"What has been done has been done. I think the Lord that I don't have permanent injury," the classy three-time heavyweight champion

said on CNN's Larry King Live, one of several television interviews Holyfield gave from his Fairbairn, Georgia home Tuesday.

"The little piece of ear that's gone is not really important and you just hope that he's learned from what he's done," added Holyfield, who said he would not bring charges against Tyson, who was disqualified from their fight Saturday after twice biting Holyfield's ears in the third round.

Holyfield said after the first bite, during the break while a decision was being made as to whether to continue the fight, he had prayed, trying to get his focus back.

Because, he admitted, "at first I wanted to go in and bite him back." The Nevada State Athletic Commission earlier Tuesday moved to keep Tyson under suspension pending a disciplinary hearing next week, after which it will decide

whether to ban Tyson from boxing, and for how long, as well as determine a possible fine.

Holyfield said if the commission does the right thing in handing down a severe enough penalty, then the injuries he suffered would have served a positive purpose.

"I think what is going to happen is going to shape boxing and make it better," he predicted on MSNBC's *InterNight* program.

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Pendleton, Burba lead Reds past Brewers

CINCINNATI (Reuters) - Terry Pendleton belted a grand slam in a seven-run seventh inning and Dave Burba pitched a three-hitter for his second career complete game as the Reds crushed the Milwaukee Brewers 9-1 on Tuesday.

Burba (5-8) walked two and struck out four to halt a personal four-game losing streak with the first complete game by a Reds pitcher since last September. He also performed from the plate, going 2-for-4 with an RBI single in the eighth.

The Reds snapped a 1-1 tie by exploding for seven runs in the seventh.

Hal Morris singled off Brewers starter Jose Mercedes (3-4) with one out and scored on a two-run homer by Joe Oliver, who has homered in three straight games.

The Reds then loaded the bases and Mercedes was replaced by Bryce Florie, who gave up Pendleton's first homer of the season and fifth career grand slam.

"It took me a couple of at-bats to get a rhythm," said Pendleton. "I had no intention to drive the ball. I was just trying to put the ball in play." Mercedes gave up five runs and four hits in 6 2/3 innings as Milwaukee lost for the sixth time in eight games.

Chico, Royals 1
In Chicago, Frank Castillo allowed an unearned run and five hits over eight innings and Ryne Sandberg had two RBI to lead the Cubs to a 6-1 win over the Kansas City Royals.

Castillo (5-9) walked one and struck out six to become the only National League pitcher with two victories against American League clubs. Kansas City's Glendon Rusch (3-5) surrendered six runs and 10 hits in six innings for the loss.

Sandberg's sacrifice fly capped a four-run first for the Cubs, who got run-scoring hits from Mark Grace, Sammy Sosa and Shawn Dunston in the opening frame.

Angels 4, Rockies 1
At Colorado, Chuck Finley allowed one run and five hits in 7 1/3 innings and Jim Edmonds blasted a two-run homer to lead the Anaheim Angels to a 4-1 victory over the Rockies.

Finley (4-6) walked three and struck out six for his first win since May 31. John Burke (2-3) allowed three runs, seven hits and one walk with six strikeouts over five innings for the loss.

Luis Alicea also homered for Anaheim, a solo shot in the ninth. Pirates 3, White Sox 0

In Pittsburgh, Steve Cooke allowed five hits over eight innings and Jose Guillen knocked in a pair of runs with a seventh-inning triple as the Pirates blanked the Chicago White Sox 3-0.

Cooke (6-9) struck out eight and walked two before leaving in the ninth. Chicago starter James Baldwin (5-9) allowed two runs and six hits over 6 1/3 innings for the loss.

With Jason Kendall and Dale Sveum on first and third in the seventh, Guillen slapped the first pitch from Baldwin into the right-center field gap for a triple and a 2-0 lead. Kevin Young drove in the other run with a single in the eighth.

National League
East Division
W L Pct. GB
Atlanta 53 29 .646 4 1/2
Florida 48 35 .576 10
Montreal 46 35 .568 11
New York 45 36 .558 12
Philadelphia 45 36 .558 12
Central Division
St. Louis 40 41 .494 -
Houston 40 43 .482 1
Pittsburgh 38 45 .457 3
Cincinnati 35 48 .421 6
Chicago 33 49 .402 7 1/2
West Division
San Francisco 47 35 .573 3
Colorado 43 40 .518 4 1/2
Los Angeles 40 42 .488 7
San Diego 38 46 .450 11

American League
East Division
W L Pct. GB
Baltimore 52 27 .658 -
New York 46 34 .575 6 1/2
Toronto 37 41 .474 14 1/2
Detroit 37 42 .468 15
Boston 37 44 .457 16
Central Division
Cleveland 41 35 .539 -
Chicago 40 40 .500 3
Milwaukee 37 41 .474 5
Kansas City 36 42 .461 6
Minnesota 35 45 .438 8
West Division
Seattle 48 34 .585 -
Anaheim 42 39 .519 5 1/2
Texas 39 41 .488 8
Oakland 35 49 .417 14

Thursday's interleague games: Montreal 2, Toronto 1; Chicago Cubs 6, Kansas City 1; Anaheim 4, Oakland 8; San Diego 6; Seattle 15, San Francisco 4; Detroit 6, NY Mets 4; Boston 9, Florida 3; Pittsburgh 3, Chicago White Sox 0; Cincinnati 9, Milwaukee 1; Adams 3, NY Yankees 1; Baltimore 4, Philadelphia 1; St. Louis 2, Minnesota 1; Cleveland 8, Houston 6; Los Angeles 6, Texas 3.

Tax man swoops on David Amsalem

By ORI LEWIS and Him

Betar Jerusalem's international defender David Amsalem was released on NIS 425,000 bail after being arrested for alleged tax fraud yesterday.

Amsalem is the latest in a line of Betar stars who have become embroiled in the affair. Last month two other star players from the club, Ronen Harazi and Eli Ohana made headline news when they were similarly questioned, arrested and bailed for getting into a tangle with the tax man.

Amsalem has also had his passport confiscated, which means that as things stand, he will not be able to travel with the national squad to their training camp in Austria next week.

IFA officials have told national team coach Shlomo Scharf that they will do everything in their power to make sure Amsalem is available for the training camp which precedes Israel's crucial World Cup qualifier with Bulgaria in Sofia on August 20.

Amsalem appeared at Tel Aviv magistrates court yesterday where the income tax authorities presented evidence to judge Gilad Neufeld that the player had submitted a fraudulent tax return for 1996.

Amsalem had been questioned under caution but preferred to remain silent.

Tax investigator Yosef Shviro claimed in court that the authorities suspect Amsalem had received unregistered payments from his league club, Betar Jerusalem, as a part of his salary and that the player had failed to record this in his annual return.

Amsalem is also suspected of taking bank loans which Betar paid back with money which was not registered in the club's books.

The tax authorities also allege that Amsalem had the use of a car hired by Betar, which was also not reported.

Through his actions, Amsalem is suspected of assisting Betar in defrauding the authorities with the intention of reducing their income tax debts.

Johnson, Devers look set for world champs

LAUSANNE (Reuters) - American world champions Michael Johnson and Gail Devers are almost sure to be given the chance to defend their titles in Athens next month even though they have not qualified directly.

Athletics sources said yesterday that reigning champions would be granted wild cards for the world championships for the first time.

Although 200 and 400 meters star Johnson and sprinter and hurdler Devers have not been picked for the American team after missing the recent US trials, the sport's governing body, the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), is set to give them the go-ahead to run.

While IAAF general secretary Istvan Gyulai said yesterday that no final decision had been made about wild cards for the championships, one leading athletics source in Lausanne said: "I think you will find that there is a majority of people in the IAAF who are in favour of this and it will be in place by Athens."

"Not all athletes and officials like the idea but it is seen as a way of making the world athletics championships different from the Olympic Games. It helps top athletes who are injured and missed national trials to make the event. It basically improves the championships as a show." The United States has strict rules on qualification for world championships and Olympics. Only the top three in the national trials qualify for the team.

Double Olympic champion Johnson, world 100 meters hurdles champion Devers, decathlete Dan O'Brien and women's world 100 meters champion Gwen Torrence all missed their trials because of injury but now look likely to be allowed to compete in Athens if they wish.

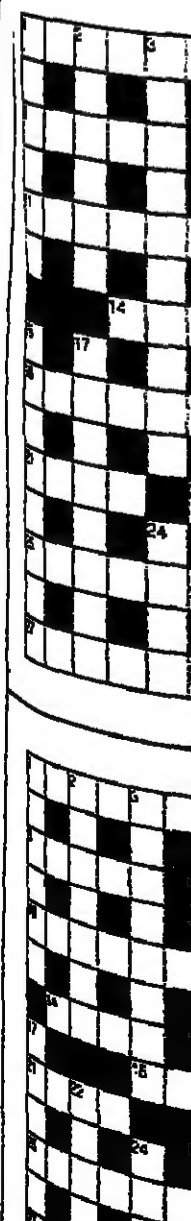
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ACROSS

1. Begun in large...
2. The wishes of a...
3. Traditionally...
4. Applied to the...
5. ...
6. Brilliant feather...
7. ...
8. Exclude under...
9. Leader with pass...
10. Heap makes a bus...
11. Don't try to impr...
12. perfectly good...
13. supply 3.4.5.
14. Buyer of an elect...
15. ...
16. Went so hurried...
17. without having eat...



הכזמן האחרון

Agency, chief rabbis meeting 'breakthrough'

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

"Breakthrough" was the word a Jewish Agency spokesman used to describe yesterday's decision by the Agency Board of Governors' Committee on the Unity of the Jewish People and Chief Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau and Eliahu Bakshi-Doron to meet on a regular basis, thereby formalizing the dialogue between them.

The two sides also agreed to formulate guidelines aimed at making sure the dialogue does not degenerate into verbal attacks by one side on the other.

However, the spokesman for the chief rabbis issued a statement after the meeting saying "the chief rabbis made clear in the meeting that they have no intention of negotiating with streams which do not recognize Halacha" and noted that they told the committee members "those who belong to such streams should repent."

Nonetheless, members of the committee said after the gathering that this was the first time a basis had been created for a dialogue between all the various streams and movements in Israel and the Diaspora, and that the Agency is now the only body through which this dialogue could be maintained. And while noting that the chief rabbis were not prepared to hold discussions with Reform and Conservative leaders as representatives of those movements, an Agency spokesman noted that the committee did indeed include leading representatives of those streams.

At the beginning of the meeting, Lau made clear that, from the standpoint of the Chief Rabbinate, matters of divorce, marriage, and conversion belong to the consensus within the Jewish people, and anyone trying to change them was trying to divide the people. "The rabbinate has only the Law received at Mt. Sinai, and that is the Law of the Torah," he said. "And whoever accepts it, is part of us. We have no mandate or ability to change

the laws of conversion."

Bakshi-Doron urged the leaders of Diaspora Jewry to fight what he said is the most important problem of the Jewish people, assimilation. "We must first think about how to save the sinking ship," he said, "instead of standing on its deck and sending messages for assistance to those on safe ground, the land of Israel."

Members of the committee expressed their pain and fear of the split in the Jewish people. Rabbi Kurt Vernon, chairman of the United Jewish Appeal's board of rabbis and affiliated with the Conservative Movement, mentioned the incident at the Western Wall on Shavuot in which Conservative Jews were attacked while praying there. He said such incidents, when viewed by Conservative Jews in the US, create distance between them and Israel. "I try to bring them closer to Israel, but what happened at the Wall and the haredi demonstrations in Jerusalem only distance them more and make them feel they are outsiders. My community no longer feels at home here." The chief rabbis responded that violence is not the way of the Chief Rabbinate.

Since the committee convenes during Agency Board of Governors meetings, with the next meeting scheduled for October, work was already under way to set up a meeting between the two sides at that time.

Anat Galili, spokesman for the Movement for Progressive Judaism, said of the meeting: "The dispute is not with Orthodoxy. We respect them. What we expect is for our converts to be recognized as Jews for civilian registration. The issue is not that they said they wouldn't negotiate with us and that we should become observant. There was no negotiating going on. The story is that the chief rabbis sat in the same room with Reform and Conservative rabbis. They understand how important Jewish unity is and that we need to talk about it."

National service mini-crisis

By LIAT COLLINS

Another coalition crisis similar to the one over the Conversion Law was narrowly averted in the Knesset yesterday by a similar solution: creating a committee to discuss the issue.

Yesterday's mini-crisis focused on different bills which would make national service mandatory for all citizens - including haredim and Arabs - in either a military or a civilian framework.

Following a morning coalition meeting, it was decided to establish a committee including MK Amnon Rubinstein (Meretz) and Yossi Beilin (Labor) - who proposed the bills - and coalition whip Michael Eitan to discuss the proposed legislation, and Rubinstein and Beilin both withdrew their bills for now.

In the morning United Torah Judaism's Moshe Gafni told the whips from the coalition parties that if the bills went ahead, his party would turn them into motions of no-confidence which would mean that those who support the bills

including the National Religious Party, Yisrael Ba'aliya and the Third Way would have to vote against the premier in order to pass them.

Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai (Shas) said his party also objected to the proposed legislation as an infringement on the status quo.

When Eitan informed Rubinstein and Beilin that if the bills came up, they would not have the majority they thought, the two opposition MKs agreed to withdraw them and establish the committee to try to reach an acceptable solution. The first meeting of the committee is scheduled for Monday. It is meant to finish its work within two weeks.

Rubinstein said if no agreement is reached regarding voluntary national service for all those exempt from military service, he will raise the bill again before the Knesset recess at the beginning of August.

The coalition meeting was marked by the same emotions raised by the coalition bills. Gafni

strongly criticized the NRP for supporting the bills. "It's inconceivable that you sit with Rubinstein and reach an agreement with him without checking with us first," he told NRP Whip Hanan Porat. "We have for a long time cooperated on religious issues, what has happened today?"

In other army-related matters, MK Ran Cohen (Meretz) yesterday said the National Insurance Institute would pay all discharged soldiers who worked in preferential fields, including construction, a bonus of some NIS 5,500. The NII had refused to pay those soldiers who found the work on their own and not via the national employment services.

MK Shaul Yahalom (NRP) has demanded that the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee discuss the intention to disband the IDF's Education Corps. He said the corps should retain its independence and be headed by an officer of the rank of brigadier general to cope with such problems as a drop in motivation.



A group of youngsters get into the spirit of yesterday's Independence Day/Canada Day picnic in Jerusalem.

Independence Day II in Sacher Park

By ELLI WOHLGELERNTER

They came by the hundreds to Sacher Park to celebrate the independence days of their old coun-

tries, in a Jerusalem tradition that has been called the American Mimouna.

Sponsored by the Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel, the annual Independence Day/Canada Day picnic in the park was a cornucopia of music, square dancing, ball playing, face painting, kite flying and - most important - the eating of hot dogs, hamburgers and corn on the cob.

"It's cool, with the hot dogs and cotton candy," said Dan Plotkin, a 23-year-old student at Hebrew Union College. "It's a good American celebration - but there's no bingo." The event, now in its 11th year, is traditionally held on July 2, because it falls between the July 1 Canada Day celebration, and America's July 4.

Eitan Buchman, 11, who emigrated from Chicago with his family two years ago, was not overly impressed with the celebration. "In America they have better barbecue, and they have fireworks," he said, adding that he felt strange

celebrating another Independence Day, "because we celebrated Yom Ha'atzmaut already, and it doesn't make sense to have two in one year."

A different objection was voiced by Steven Wise, a 23-year-old student from Toronto who is about to go back home after a year at the Hebrew University.

"I just find that the lack of Canadian content at this fair is disturbing me," he said. "I was hoping for some kind of patriotic something...I'm extremely patriotic, I love Canada. And why aren't there games for adults, like a Color War between Canadians and Americans?"

That's about as much of a war as Ailon Shiloh would want to see. As commander of the Jewish War Veterans Post 180 in Jerusalem, he and his comrades have seen enough real battle. Yesterday they were there as color guards on behalf of the US consulate. "The idea is to fly the flag in an honorable way," said Shiloh.

Ron Dermer, a 27-year-old political consultant from Miami Beach who is in the process of becoming an Israeli citizen, said he was surprised that he didn't see people "wearing their American pride, showing pride in both their American and Jewish heritage, like wearing red, white and blue t-shirts." Larry DeKoven, a 27-year-old from Chicago who is doing army service as a new immigrant, said he was celebrating "as a one-time American Jew who has now made aliya, but who has not shed his American upbringing, or the values of Americanism that Israel can definitely use."

For most of the people, it was a day for fun, to sit on blankets with family and shmooze the afternoon away.

"I come to the picnic because I really get a lot of enjoyment out of seeing Americans who have made aliya, and who have made it successfully," said Gerry Farkas, a 44-year-old native of Chicago. "It gives me a lot of pleasure."

Lubavitch hassidim, secular group clash in Ramat Aviv

By JONATHAN TEPPERMAN and AVI LEVY

Lubavitch hassidim and members of a group called Am-Hofshi (A Free

People) clashed Tuesday night in Tel Aviv's Ramat Aviv neighborhood, when Am-Hofshi activists disrupted a Lubavitch prayer session being held in a local apartment. Though no

arrests were made, police had to be called.

The dispute between the two groups concerns an apartment owned by Habad in the predominantly secular Ramat Aviv. Am-Hofshi claims that the apartment has been used as a center for religious activism and for commercial transactions by the Lubavitchers, in violation of zoning laws and to the consternation of local residents. Habad counters that the apartment is a private residence, owned by seven or eight young men who work in Tel Aviv and who periodically gather together to study Torah.

The two organizations dispute what exactly happened on Tuesday night. What is clear is that approximately 30 members of Am-Hofshi entered the apartment, accompanied by a number of journalists, and attempted to disrupt the proceedings. While Am-Hofshi members claim that the apartment is open and that they were invited in, the Lubavitchers dispute this and are filing trespass charges.

Also disputed is the nature of activities within the apartment. As Yossi Furman, Am-Hofshi's secretary, told Israel Radio yesterday, "The activities in the apartment are illegal because the apartment is supposed to be residential and not used for business. These very people try to bring secular children closer to the faith by giving them money to join them in prayers."

Mendy Brod, a Lubavitch spokesman, said that the apartment is not used as a public place and that not just anyone may join in the prayers held there.

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WEATHER

Haifa 21-30	Tiberias 22-25
Afula 26-32	Samarita 17-30
Tel Aviv 20-28	Jerusalem 19-29
Beersheba 18-33	Dead Sea
Eilat 25-40	

Forecast: Clear to partly cloudy

AROUND THE WORLD:

	LOW	C	HIGH	WIND	SEA
Amsterdam	11	18	21	70	cloudy
Berlin	16	21	24	75	cloudy
Buenos Aires	18	23	26	90	cloudy
Cairo	23	28	32	80	cloudy
Chicago	11	19	21	80	cloudy
Copenhagen	11	18	21	80	cloudy
Frankfurt	11	18	21	80	cloudy
Geneva	11	18	21	80	cloudy
Hong Kong	26	27	28	10	calm
London	13	18	21	72	cloudy
Los Angeles	18	23	26	10	calm
Madrid	13	18	21	72	cloudy
Moscow	13	18	21	72	cloudy
New York	13	18	21	72	cloudy
Paris	13	18	21	72	cloudy
Rome	13	18	21	72	cloudy
Sydney	18	23	26	10	calm
Tokyo	18	23	26	10	calm
Vienna	13	18	21	72	cloudy
Zurich	11	18	21	80	cloudy

Winning cards

The winning cards in yesterday's first Chance draw were the queen of spades, 7 of hearts, 7 of diamonds, and queen of clubs. The results of the second draw were the jack of spades, 7 of hearts, 10 of diamonds, and 8 of clubs.

Bezeq workers defy Livnat

By JUDY SIEGEL

Bezeq workers yesterday continued to ignore instructions by Communications Minister Limor Livnat and their own director-general Ami Erel and refused to connect Barak and Golden Lines to the international telephone exchange.

The minister said the opening of competition in overseas dialing would have to wait for "a few more days," adding that efforts must be taken to "end the monopolies in the telecommunications sector and in other sectors as well."

Golden Lines managing director Rami Balinkov said that because of the sanctions, consumers are paying three times more than they have to for overseas calls. Golden Lines' and Barak's new rates were to have gone into effect on Tuesday, but because Bezeq International announced even lower prices that undercut those stipulated in the ministry's tender, the new rates have been postponed.

Balinkov charged that Bezeq workers are "trying to preserve Bezeq International's monopoly in a blatant violation of the law. We are ready. We have already dedicated our international exchange, but it has not been connected to our customers because of the Bezeq workers' union. Their acts are those of hoodlums."

Bezeq management has not denounced the union's action, but merely said it "regretted" it. The third overseas dialing provider, Barak, said that it too was ready to begin service if only its exchange were connected. Managing director Avi Patir hosted Livnat on Tuesday night at the company's Rosh Ha'ayin headquarters for a bittersweet ceremony.

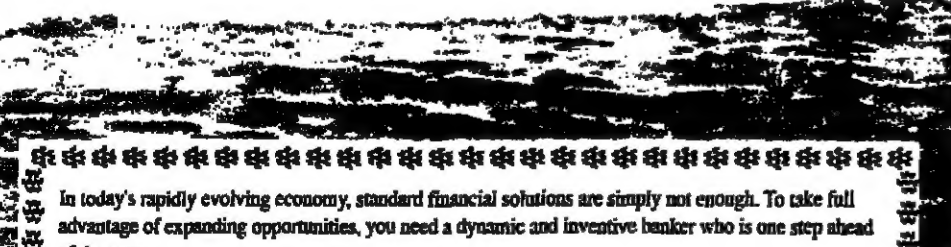
"The joy is not complete, because the expected use of our lines to carry hundreds of thousands of calls has been delayed by irresponsible action by Bezeq workers," he said.

The Bezeq workers' union, however, said it would connect its competitors' exchanges only when it became "convinced that there is genuine free competition."

"What kind of competition is it when one of the competitors is forced to charge high prices and the others may set lower rates?" said union head Shlomo Kfir. The union demands that the government implement the agreement the ministry signed to "ensure Bezeq's financial stability," which Livnat said was in jeopardy because of the sanctions.

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